SUPERMAN
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ACTION
COMICS

SUPERMAN
by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER
THE MATTER OF SUPERMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY IS ONE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. DISGUISED AS CLARK KENT, THE MAN OF TOMORROW FINDS IT POSSIBLE, SECRETLY, TO FERRET OUT CRIMES THAT NEED SOLVING, AND INJUSTICES THAT CRY OUT TO BE RIGHTED. BUT SUPERMAN DESPITE HIS TERRIFIC POWERS, IS AS HUMAN AS YOU AND I. SUPPOSE THAT SUPERMAN WERE FACE TO FACE WITH THE CHOICE EITHER OF EXPOSING HIS SECRET IDENTITY OR OF LOSING LOIS LANE FOR ALL TIME. IN SUCH AN EVENT HE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED IN DISCARDING THE DUAL IDENTITY. BUT WOULD PEOPLE BELIEVE THE INCREDIBLE TRUTH? SUPERMAN LEARNS THE ANSWER TO THAT ABSORBING QUESTION WHEN CLARK KENT FINDS HIMSELF...
"THE MAN THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE!"
PLANET
FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS
BUT, LOIS! I AM SUPERMAN!
HA! HA! CLARK, YOU'RE A PANIC!

CLARK KENT AND LOIS LANE, DINING AND DANCING AT THE GLEN LANE CLUB, NOTE A DISTURBANCE - - -
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S CRAIG SHAW, THE PLAYBOY, MAKING A FOOL OF HIMSELF!
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO STOP, PLAYING WITH FIRE IS DANGEROUS.
GO 'WAY. JUST WANTA GIVE HIM A LITTLE HOT-FOOT. S'FUNNY!
SHAW'S UNSTEADY HAND NEARS PAPER DECORATIONS - - - INSTANTLY THERE IS A PUFF OF FLAME...
--AND THE FLAME SPREADS ACROSS THE ROOM WITH GALE-LIKE SPEED...
FIRE!
EEE-EEEE!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!!
EXIT
AMIDST SCREAMS, SHOUTS AND IMPRECATIONS THE TERRIFIED MERRYMAKERS SURGE TOWARD THE CLUB'S ONLY EXIT...
CLARK! CLARK! WHERE ARE YOU?
2
DIVING BENEATH A TABLE, KENT HAD LOST NO TIME IN TRANSFORMING HIMSELF TO THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MAN...
HUNDREDS OF LIVES ENDANGERED! THIS IS A JOB FOR-- SUPERMAN!!

IN HIS FRANTIC EFFORT TO ESCAPE THE HOLOCAUST HE HAD LAUNCHED, SHAW CLAWS TOWARD THE CROWDED EXIT...
LET ME THRU! LET ME OUT!!
YOU'RE -- HURTING ME!
EXIT
IN A HURRY?
HEY! WHO--?
THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM -- IN THE REAR!
ABOUT THE ROOM FLASHES THE MAN OF TOMORROW AT INCREDIBLE SPEED... TEARING DOWN FLAMING DECORATIONS... TRAMPLING THEM... BEATING OUT THE VORACIOUS BLAZE WITH HIS BARE HANDS...
OUT YOU GO!
THE FLAMES EXTINGUISHED, SUPERMAN FACES A MORE DIFFICULT TASK..
THOSE PEOPLE ARE IN GREATER DANGER FROM THEIR OWN PANIC THAN FROM ANY OTHER PERIL! I'VE GOT TO BRING THEM TO THEIR SENSES!
EXIT
3
SUPERMAN'S VOICE BOOMS OUT IN DEAFENING VOLUME...
DON'T MOVE! THE FIRE IS OVER!!
THAT VOICE--!
IT SAID THE FIRE HAS STOPPED!
THE CROWD'S PANIC DISSIPATES AND ORDER RETURNS. AND AS IT DOES, SUPERMAN HURTLES OFF. BUT SOON AFTER...
ER--IS IT SAFE TO COME OUT NOW?
SO THERE YOU ARE! LETS GET GOING, CLARK! I'VE GOT PLENTY TO WRITE ABOUT A CERTAIN MR. CRAIG SHAW-- PLENTY!!
MENU

SWELL ARTICLE, LOIS. BUT CRAIG SHAW ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THE PICTURE YOU'VE PAINTED OF HIM.
THE SHOE FITS; LET HIM WEAR IT!
NEXT MORNING . . .
THIS ARTICLE IN WHICH YOU CASTIGATE MY CLIENT IS NOTHING SHORT OF LIBELOUS! ON BEHALF OF MR. SHAW, I SHALL INSTITUTE SUIT AGAINST BOTH YOU AND THE NEWSPAPER!
SO- ON TOP OF ALL HIS MANY OTHER DEFICIENCIES, CRAIG SHAW IS A CRY- BABY! VERY WELL, SUE! BUT BEFORE THE TRIAL IS OVER, YOUNG MR. SHAW WILL LOOK VERY, VERY RIDICULOUS!
DAILY PLANET
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, LOIS?
TO GIVE SHAW A PIECE OF MY MIND! IF THAT ARTICLE MADE HIS EARS BURN- WAIT 'TILL HE HEARS ME IN PERSON!
KNOWING LOIS' AMAZING PROPENSITY FOR GETTING INTO TROUBLE, I CAN'T LET HER BARGE IN ON SHAW WITHOUT HOVERING NEAR TO PROTECT HER-- JUST IN CASE!
THERE SHE GOES- INTO THE LION'S DEN! I'VE GOT TO ADMIT SHE HAS PLENTY OF SPUNK!
BUT MR. SHAW IS SEEING NO ONE!
HE'LL SEE ME!!
I'M SORRY, SIR- SHE JUST BARGED IN.
I'VE GOT PLENTY TO SAY, TO YOU!
ALWAYS GLAD TO LISTEN TO SUCH A VISION OF LOVELINESS. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY TO ME, BUT-- SPEAK ON!
YOU ASKED FOR IT, BROTHER!
4

YOU WON'T LIKE WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU. NAMELY, I THINK YOU'RE THE MOST WORTHLESS, INCONSIDERATE CREATURE WHO EVER WALKED THIS EARTH!
WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE DO YOU GET OFF TALKING LIKE THAT TO ME?
I HAPPEN TO BE THE REPORTER WHO WROTE HOW YOUR BOORISHNESS ALMOST RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES. I UNDERSTAND YOU WANT TO SUE ME FOR TELLING THE TRUTH. I JUST THOUGHT I'D TELL YOU A FEW MORE TRUTHS ABOUT YOURSELF!
THE SUIT WAS MY ATTORNEY'S IDEA, NOT MINE. I'LL TELL HIM TO FORGET IT. BUT LOOK, MISS LANE, I'LL ADMIT I HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK LAST NIGHT, BUT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO THINK I'M A PRETTY NICE GUY.
WELL, THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE ME. GOODBYE!
WAIT--!
MY CONCERN FOR LOIS WAS WASTED. IF ANYONE NEEDED AID, IT WAS SHAW!
LATER...
NEVER IN MY WHOLE LIFE WILL I DERIVE AS MUCH SATISFACTION AS I DID IN THE MOMENT WHEN I TOLD THAT CONCEITED FOP WHAT I THOUGHT OF HIM!
I WISH I HAD BEEN THERE.
FLOWERS FOR YOU, MISS LANE.
FLOWERS—FOR ME?!
HERE'S A CARD. IT'S SIGNED "CRAIG SHAW."
5
AND IT SAYS—"TO AN OUTSPOKEN YOUNG LADY WHO IS VERY BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE LOSES HER TEMPER!"—CLARK! DO YOU THINK HE'S ALL THERE?!
PARDON ME, LOIS. THE PHONE'S RINGING.
R-R-RING!
IT'S CRAIG SHAW. HE WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU!
TELL HIM I'M NOT IN—HANG UP—DO ANYTHING BUT. I DON'T CARE TO TALK TO HIM!

LATER...
THE NERVE OF SHAW-- SENDING FLOWERS-- MAKING PHONE CALLS... AS THO THAT WOULD IMPROVE MY OPINION OF HIM...!
DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT I THINK THAT'S HE PARKED AT THE CURB.
IT WASN'T VERY NICE OF YOU NOT TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY FLOWERS. BUT IF YOU'LL HOP IN, WE'LL DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER.
COME, CLARK. LET'S NOT WASTE OUR TIME STANDING HERE!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IN--, BECAUSE IM NOT GOING TO!
EVERYONE'S STARING!
THIS IS EMBARRASSING!
HONK! HONK!
A CONTEMPTIBLE THING TO DO-AND I MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED IT OF YOU. BUT WHY DO YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO ANNOY ME?
LOVE, PRINCESS-- LOVE!
YOU SEE, LOIS-I'VE ALWAYS BEEN DISGUSTED WITH MY OWN BEHAVIOR-- I'VE FELT I COULD REALLY DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE... IF I HAD THE RIGHT GIRL TO INSPIRE ME...I THINK YOU'RE THAT GIRL...
BUT WHY ME? YOU HARDLY KNOW ME!
I'M IN THIS CAR, TOO. WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE SPEAK TO ME?
WE'LL GO INTO THAT FURTHER TONIGHT-- THAT IS, IF YOU'D CONSENT TO GO TO THE THEATER WITH ME.
WHY NOT? IT'S NOT EVERY GIRL WHO CAN HAVE A DATE WITH THE TOWN'S MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR. SEE YOU AT, EIGHT....
BUT, LOIS! I HAD PLANNED TO ASK FOR A DATE, MYSELF!
THEN IT'S TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T SPEAK UP EARLIER. SEE YOU TOMORROW AT THE OFFICE!
6
LOIS SEEMS FASCINATED BY SHAW AND HIS SMOOTH MANNERS. AND HE APPEARS TO BE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN HER. OF COURSE-- HEH! HEH!-I'M NOT JEALOUS... BUT... I DON'T LIKE IT!
NOT JEALOUS? WHAT? DO YOU THINK, READER!
CRAIG SHAW ARRIVES PROMPTLY AT EIGHT...
ONE THING IN YOUR FAVOR, MR. SHAW. YOU'RE PUNCTUAL.
SINCE I'M GOING TO PROPOSE TO YOU BEFORE THE EVENING'S OVER, YOU MIGHT DROP THE FORMALITY AND BEGIN CALLING ME CRAIG!

... AND PROCEEDS TO SHOW LOIS A ROYAL TIME. FIRST A SMART MUSICAL REVUE ...
I DECLARE! YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN IN THE AUDIENCE WHO ISN'T WATCHING THE BEAUTIFUL LEADING LADY!
I HAVE EYES ONLY FOR YOU, PRINCESS!
ALBION THEATRE
... FOLLOWED BY A SMART SUPPER CLUB...
YOU'RE A SPLENDID DANCER, CRAIG.
I THOUGHT WE WERE FLOATING ON CLOUDS!
... THEN ... A COOL SPIN THRU THE PARK ...
ISN'T IT RATHER LATE TO PARK? PERHAPS EVEN DANGEROUS?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN ANXIOUS TO TELL YOU ALL EVENING, LOIS.
A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY... A MUSCULAR FIGURE CRASHES NOISELESSLY TO EARTH...
NOT IN PARTICULARLY GOOD TASTE FOR ME TO TRAIL THEM ALL EVENING LIKE THIS... BUT I'VE ANTICIPATED A PROPOSAL FROM SHAW - AND I MUST KNOW LOIS' ANSWER...
SINCE I MET YOU I'VE FELT THAT MY WHOLE LIFE UP TO NOW HAS BEEN WASTED - I ADORE YOU, LOIS - AND YOU CAN BRING SOME MEANING INTO MY EXISTENCE, IF YOU WILL. SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME - THAT YOU'LL MARRY ME...
I - I HARDLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
ONLY ONE THING THAT YOU CAN SAY, LOIS DEAREST - ONLY ONE THING I'LL LET YOU SAY - THAT YOU DO LOVE ME - THAT YOU WILL MARRY ME...
MY ANSWER IS...
DESPITE ALL HIS SUPER-POWERS OF PERFECT BODILY CONTROL, SUPERMAN CANNOT PREVENT AN ANXIOUS EXPRESSION FROM CROSSING HIS FEATURES -- HE LISTENS INTENTLY... EVERY SENSE ALERT...
"WHAT-WILL-SHE-SAY??-"
BUT BEFORE LOIS CAN REPLY, ANOTHER CAR DRIVES INTO THE SCENE. ITS DRIVER FIRES REPEATEDLY TOWARD THE TWO FIGURES IN THE ROADSTER...
I WON'T MISS!!
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KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN! SOMEONE'S SHOOTING AT US!
I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO PARK!
OUT OF THE NEARBY BUSHES HURTLES A COLORFULLY COSTUMED FIGURE...
YOU LIKE REVOLVERS, EH?
A SLIGHT TWIST SENDS THE HEAVY CAR SPINNING A-BOUT SO THAT THE GUNMAN FACES IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION...
WELL, TRY THIS REVOLVER!
THE BULLETS BOUNCE OFF! YII-II! IT'S SUPERMAN!! I'M GETTING OUT!
MIGHTY OBLIGING OF YOU! SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF DRAGGING YOU OUT!
UH-HH!
YOU'RE FORTUNATE I HAPPENED ALONG. I'LL TAKE THIS THUG TO THE POLICE STATION WHERE HE BELONGS.
FORTUNATE, IS PUTTING IT MILDLY.
WAIT, SUPERMAN! I'VE SOMETHING TO SAY THAT I'M SURE WILL INTEREST YOU.
I'VE DECIDED TO ACCEPT MR. SHAW'S PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE!
LOIS! THAT'S MARVELOUS!
WHA-?! -ER... THEN... LET ME WISH BOTH OF YOU ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD!
SECONDS LATER, AFTER DEPOSITING THE UN-CONSCIOUS THUG AT THE JAIL, SUPERMAN HURTLES UP INTO THE NIGHT...
LOIS--- ABOUT TO MARRY--- MARRY SOMEONE ELSE... THIS IS SOME-THING I NEV-ER EXPECTED! I-I'VE GOT TO THINK IT OUT!
I'VE KNOWN LOIS FOR YEARS --NEVER DECLARED MY FEELINGS- TOOK HER FOR GRANTED... IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT SOME DAY SHE MIGHT MARRY SOMEONE ELSE...
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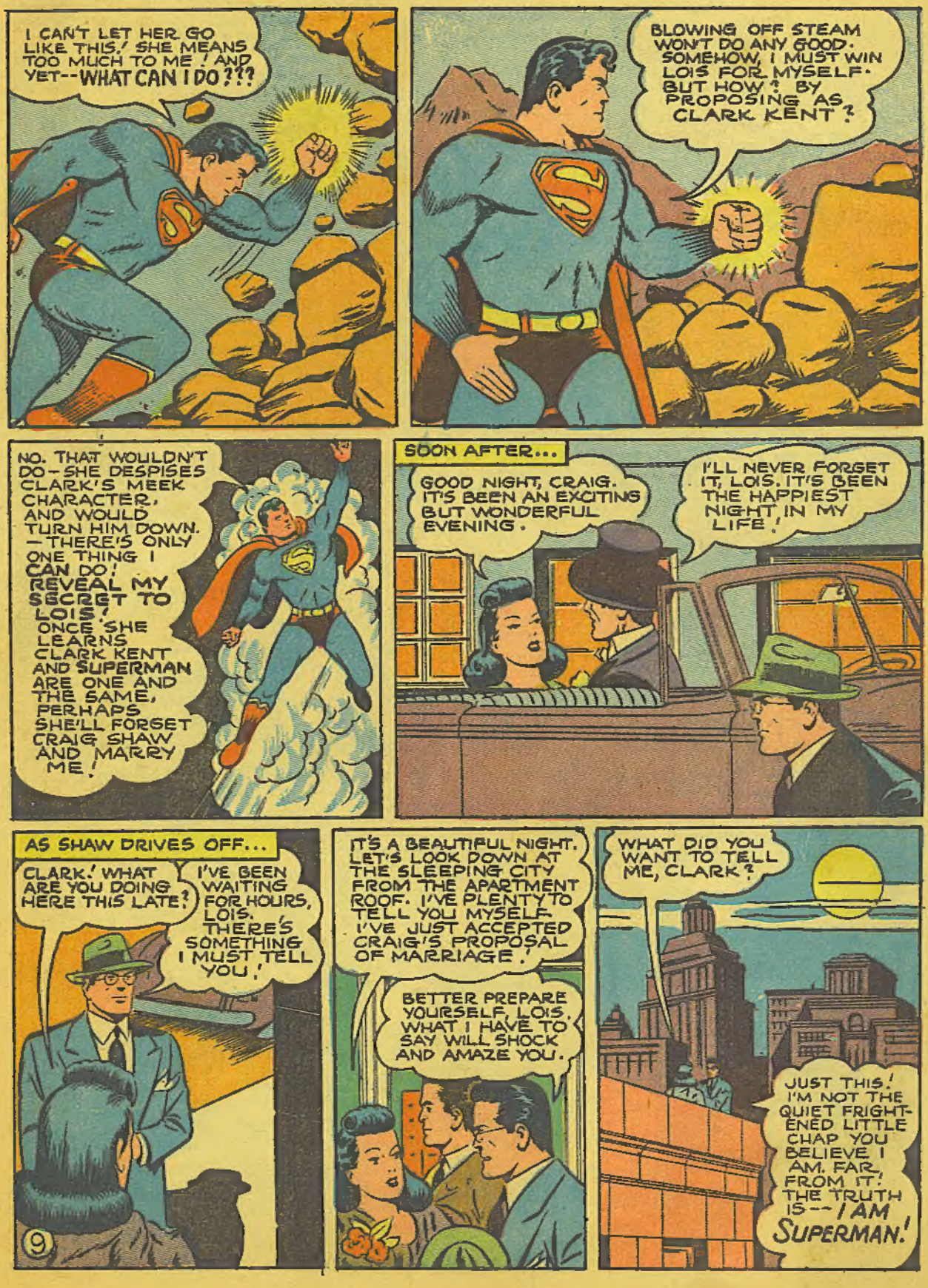
I CAN'T LET HER GO LIKE THIS! SHE MEANS TOO MUCH TO ME! AND YET--WHAT CAN I DO???
BLOWING OFF STEAM WON'T DO ANY GOOD. SOMEHOW, I MUST WIN LOIS FOR MYSELF. BUT HOW? BY PROPOSING AS CLARK KENT?
NO. THAT WOULDN'T DO--SHE DESPISES CLARK'S MEEK CHARACTER, AND WOULD TURN HIM DOWN. --THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO! REVEAL MY SECRET TO LOIS! ONCE SHE LEARNS CLARK KENT AND SUPERMAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME, PERHAPS SHE'LL FORGET CRAIG SHAW AND MARRY ME!
SOON AFTER...
GOOD NIGHT, CRAIG. IT'S BEEN AN EXCITING BUT WONDERFUL EVENING.
I'LL NEVER FORGET IT, LOIS. IT'S BEEN THE HAPPIEST NIGHT IN MY LIFE!
AS SHAW DRIVES OFF...
CLARK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE THIS LATE?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HOURS, LOIS. THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU!
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT. LET'S LOOK DOWN AT THE SLEEPING CITY FROM THE APARTMENT ROOF. I'VE PLENTY TO TELL YOU MYSELF. I'VE JUST ACCEPTED CRAIG'S PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE!
BETTER PREPARE YOURSELF, LOIS. WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WILL SHOCK AND AMAZE YOU.
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME, CLARK?
JUST THIS! I'M NOT THE QUIET FRIGHTENED LITTLE CHAP YOU BELIEVE I AM. FAR FROM IT! THE TRUTH IS--I AM SUPERMAN!
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HA! HA! VERY FUNNY, CLARK! BUT IT WAS FUNNIER THAT TIME WE SPRANG IT ON THE UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC AS A NEWSPAPER HOAX.
BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, LOIS. THIS IS NO HOAX. I'M SUPERMAN! I'VE LEARNED OF YOUR ENGAGEMENT TO CRAIG, AND I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME INSTEAD OF HIM!
ONLY ONE WAY TO CONVINCE HER!—" IF I STRIKE THE STREET UNHARMED, IT WILL PROVE I'M SUPERMAN!
NO, CLARK—NO!!
TERRIFIED, LOIS RUNS DOWN TO THE STREET TO FIND . . .
BUT HOW DID I KNOW I'D LAND IN A TRUCK LOADED WITH MATTRESSES?
YOU DID IT DELIBERATELY JUST TO FRIGHTEN ME! GOOD NIGHT!!
RESOLVED TO EXPOSE HIS TRUE IDENTITY, CLARK MAKES A STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE NEXT MORNING...
ATTENTION, EVERYONE! I'VE A CONFESSION TO MAKE! I'M SUPERMAN!
WE'RE NOT FOOLED!
BUT WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN IF YOU'D TOLD US ANY OTHER DAY!
YOU SEE, CLARK, TODAY'S APRIL FIRST—APRIL FOOL'S DAY! YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP!
SO YOU THINK IT'S JUST A JOKE, EH? YOU'LL THINK DIFFERENTLY WHEN YOU SEE BULLETS BOUNCE OFF ME!
DON'T SHOOT!
APRIL 1 1943
SEE? IT'S TRUE! HE'S NOT HARMED!!
BANG BANG
FORGET IT LOIS! I'M TO OFFICIATE AT A TRACK MEET THIS AFTERNOON AND THAT GUN IS FILLED WITH BLANKS! CLARK MUST HAVE KNOWN IT!
10
LATER...ON THE STREET... CLARK PURSUES LOIS WITH HIS PROTESTATIONS..
LOOK, LOIS! DOES'T THIS PROVE I HAVE SUPER-STRENGTH?
CLARK! YOU LIFTED IT!
BACK-STAGE
WOTCHA TRYIN' T'DO, BUD—RUIN ME ACT??
THOSE WEIGHTS—A FAKE, CLARK, YOU KILL ME!
BUT, LOIS! I DIDN'T KNOW!
SAMSON JR. WORLD'S STRONGEST LITTLE MAN

I ALMOST DIED LAUGHING. CLARK INSISTING HE'S SUPERMAN, AND NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE HIM! HA! HA! HA! HA!
THAT IS AMUSING.
YOU AGAIN! I HOPE YOU'VE GOT THE SUPERMAN BEE OUT OF YOUR BONNET BY THIS TIME!
LOIS—THIS TIME I'M GOING TO OFFER PROOF THAT WILL CONVINCE EVEN YOU! RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES I'M GOING TO REMOVE MY OUTER GARMENTS AND EXPOSE MY SUPERMAN COSTUME TO VIEW!
BUT BEFORE CLARK CAN DO MORE THAN REMOVE HIS JACKET AND LOOSEN HIS TIE...
OH NO YE DON'T! UNDRESSIN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, EH? TO THE JAIL YE GO, ADAM!
BUT I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
SERVES YOU RIGHT FOR BEING A SMART ALECK!
LATER... AFTER SERGEANT CASEY EXTRICATES CLARK FROM HIS EMBARRASSING ARREST...
BY THE WAY, YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT WE HAD TO RELEASE THAT CROOK WHO FIRED AT LOIS AND SHAW. SHAW REFUSED TO PRESS CHARGES.
THAT'S WHAT I CALL A FORGIVING NATURE!
MEANWHILE— IN THE BASEMENT OF SHAW'S MANSION...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THIS REPORTER, KENT. HE'S INTERESTED IN THE LANE GIRL TO THE EXTENT THAT HE'S TRYING TO CONVINCE HER HE'S SUPERMAN, WHICH IS RIDICULOUS, OF COURSE, BUT HE MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES. I'VE INVITED HIM HERE FOR AN IMPORTANT INTERVIEW, AND...
A SOUND FROM THE NEXT ROOM BETRAYS THE EAVESDROPPING LOIS TO SHAW...
SO YOU BECAME ENGAGED TO ME JUST SO YOU'D HAVE A CHANCE TO INVESTIGATE ME!
I WAS CURIOUS TO LEARN THE SOURCE OF YOUR HUGE INCOME. I SUSPECTED YOU WERE CROOKED!
THE DOORBELL! MUST BE THAT OTHER REPORTER.
CLARK IS ADMITTED TO THE LIBRARY. BUT AS HE IS SEATED..
WHAT'S THE IDEA?
QUITE A SIMPLE ONE- FLATNOSE, BRING IN THE LANE GIRL!
LOIS IS IMPRISONED IN A CHAIR DIRECTLY FACING CLARK'S...
YOUR CHAIRS ARE WIRED FOR 20,000 VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY.. PERHAPS NOT ENOUGH TO KILL SUPERMAN, BUT CERTAINLY SUFFICIENT FOR A PAIR OF SPYING REPORTERS!
BUT IF I FREE MYSELF AND ATTEND TO YOU IT WILL REVEAL I'M SUPERMAN-- AND I'VE BEEN DESPERATELY TRYING TO CONVINCE LOIS OF THAT.
CLARK, THIS IS NO LONGER ANY TIME FOR JOKING. HOW I COULD EVEN HAVE PRETENDED TO CARE FOR THAT KILLER SO THAT, I COULD EXPOSE HIM, IS BEYOND ME!
"PRETEND!!... LOIS ACTUALLY DIDN'T INTEND TO MARRY SHAW! THEN THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO REVEAL MY IDENTITY! NOW I'VE THE PROBLEM OF RESCUING LOIS, RIGHT BEFORE HER EYES WITHOUT REVEALING THAT I'M SUPERMAN!
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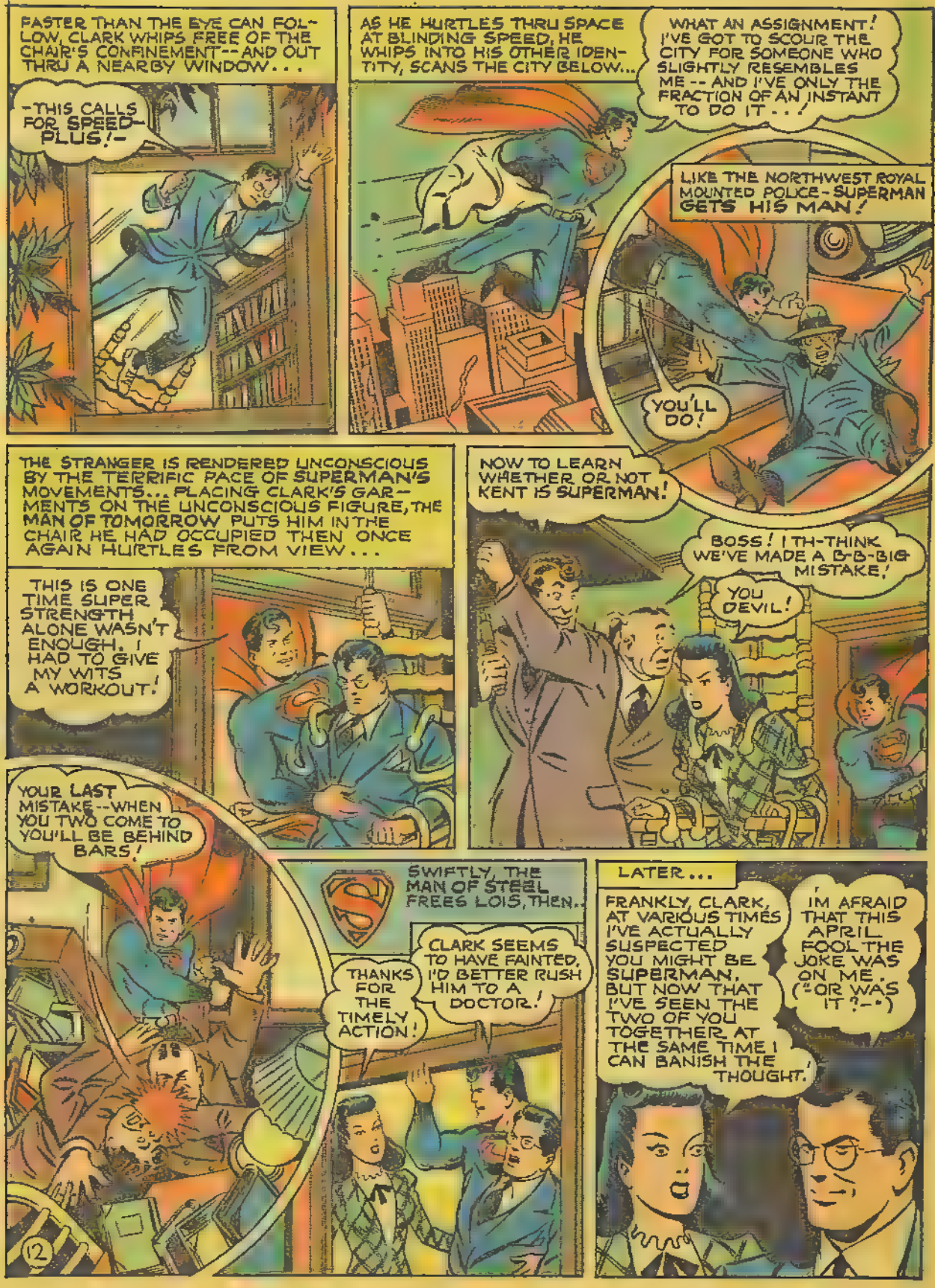

FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, CLARK WHIPS FREE OF THE CHAIR'S CONFINEMENT--AND OUT THRU A NEARBY WINDOW...
-THIS CALLS FOR SPEED-PLUS!-
AS HE HURTLES THRU SPACE AT BLINDING SPEED, HE WHIPS INTO HIS OTHER IDENTITY, SCANS THE CITY BELOW...
WHAT AN ASSIGNMENT! I'VE GOT TO SCOUR THE CITY FOR SOMEONE WHO SLIGHTLY RESEMBLES ME -- AND I'VE ONLY THE FRACTION OF AN INSTANT TO DO IT..!
LIKE THE NORTHWEST ROYAL MOUNTED POLICE - SUPERMAN GETS HIS MAN!
YOU'LL DO!
THE STRANGER IS RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE TERRIFIC PACE OF SUPERMAN'S MOVEMENTS... PLACING CLARK'S GARMENTS ON THE UNCONSCIOUS FIGURE, THE MAN OF TOMORROW PUTS HIM IN THE CHAIR HE HAD OCCUPIED THEN ONCE AGAIN HURTLES FROM VIEW...
THIS IS ONE TIME SUPER STRENGTH ALONE WASN'T ENOUGH. I HAD TO GIVE MY WITS A WORKOUT!
NOW TO LEARN WHETHER OR NOT KENT IS SUPERMAN!
BOSS! I TH-THINK WE'VE MADE A B-B-BIG MISTAKE!
YOU DEVIL!
YOUR LAST MISTAKE--WHEN YOU TWO COME TO YOU'LL BE BEHIND BARS!
SWIFTLY, THE MAN OF STEEL FREES LOIS, THEN..
THANKS FOR THE TIMELY ACTION!
CLARK SEEMS TO HAVE FAINTED, I'D BETTER RUSH HIM TO A DOCTOR!
LATER...
FRANKLY, CLARK, AT VARIOUS TIMES I'VE ACTUALLY SUSPECTED YOU MIGHT BE SUPERMAN. BUT NOW THAT I'VE SEEN THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME I CAN BANISH THE THOUGHT.
I'M AFRAID THAT THIS APRIL FOOL THE JOKE WAS ON ME. (SIGH OR WAS IT?-*)
12

The VIGILANTE
BY MORT JR. and CHARLIE
Music and Crimes by THE FIDDLER
A BALEFUL BOW SCRAPES SINISTER STRINGS AND MOCKING MUSIC QUAVERS THROUGH THE NIGHT AS THE FANTASTIC FIDDLER TURNS HIS EVIL GENIUS ONCE AGAIN TO CUNNING CRIME-PLOTS! THIS TIME, THE MELODIES OF YESTERDAY INSPIRE HIS AUDACIOUS RAID FOR RICHES... AND ONE OF THEM VERY NEARLY BECOMES A DIRGE FOR THE DARING VIGILANTE BEFORE WESTERN WITS AND WEAPONS SCORE ANOTHER VICTORY OVER THE UNDERWORLD IN THE STRANGE CASE OF...
"THE CAT AND THE FIDDLER!"

WIDA GAT...AND MYSTERIOUS CHINATOWN SLUMBERS BENEATH SILENT SHADOWS...
PARDON US...PERHAPS WE SHOULDN'T HAVE USED THAT WORD SILENT...
YEEEE
...AND OUR MENTION OF SLUMBER MAY HAVE BEEN A TRIFLE HASTY...
FIRST IT WAS GRAMP SNORIN' SO LOUD I COULDN'T GET A GRIP ON A DREAM---AN' NOW SOME ALLEY CAT THINKS HE'S A KIYOODLIN' COYOTE!
YEEEEOWW
I'LL TEACH YA TO SERENADE ME, YA RING-TAILED RAT-RUSTLER!
MEEEOWRR
NOW I GOTTA COME DOWN AFTER MY SHOE!
HE'S RUNNING OFF WITH MY SHOE! COME BACK HERE, YA IMITATION TIGER, OR I'LL RUN THROUGH ALL NINE O' YOUR LIVES!
A BLOCK AWAY...
AHH-H!
2

SUDDENLY...SOFT VIOLIN MUSIC THROBS THROUGH THE DARKNESS TO SOOTHE THE RUFFLED FEELINGS OF STUFF, THE CHINATOWN KID!
HUH? IT'S THAT OLD TIME SONG... 'I KEEP YOU ROSES, I WANT DIAMONDS!', AND IT'S STILL A PRETTY TUNE!
BUT WHY WOULD ANYBODY BE PLAYIN' A FIDDLE THIS TIME O' NIGHT? AN' WHY IN A JEWELRY STORE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE LOCKED UP?
G.G. MCRACK JEWELER
DELIVERY ENTRANCE
WHY, INDEED?... MAYBE WE'D BETTER LOOK INTO THIS!
THIS IS CERTAINLY MAKING THE MUSIC FIT THE CRIME! "I WANT DIAMONDS: HA! HA!
AHA... IT'S THE FIDDLER... VILLAINOUS VIOLINIST OF THE UNDERWORLD!
AND THE FIDDLER IS NOT ALONE!
I TELL YA, SPORT, I CAN'T STAND DAT FIDDLIN' ALL DA TIME!
DON'T BE A DRIP, DROOP! IF HE'S GOT TO HAVE MUSIC TO INSPIRE HIS SCHEMES ...WHAT DO WE CARE? WE'RE GETTING RICH, AREN'T WE?
AND HERE'S A FELLOW WHO PROBABLY NEVER HEARD ABOUT THE CAT THAT WAS KILLED BY CURIOSITY!
PRESENTLY...
AHOY, SKIPPER! WE'VE GOT THE ROCK BALLAST STOWED AWAY TIGHT AN' TIDY!
VERY WELL, SAILOR! LET US HASTEN TO MY STUDIO TO PUT OURSELVES IN THE MOOD FOR OUR NEXT EXPEDITION!
MUSIC HAS INSPIRED MANY MEN TO GREAT DEEDS... AND IT WILL MAKE ME THE CRIME KING OF THE NATION!
3

SHIVERING IN THE COOL NIGHT---A PAJAMA-CLAD YOUTH RECOGNIZES OLD ACQUAINTANCES...
DUNK ME FOR A DOUGHNUT...IT'S TH' FIDDLER! THE VIG WAS TELLIN' ME HE AN' HIS PALS HAD CRASHED OUTA TH' BIG HOUSE!
COURAGE WITHOUT CAUTION...THAT'S STUFF!
I'M GONNA PLAY DRUM ROLLS ON YOUR NOGGIN, FIDDLER!
EH? WHAT'S THIS?
THIS'LL TOUGHEN YA UP FOR THE ROCKPILE, DROOP!
I'LL BAT DAT BRAT FLAT---
OUCH!!
BELAY THERE... YE SCUPPER RAT!!
WHOPPAW!
BAM!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! A SHOT WOULD BRING THE POLICE ON OUR TRAIL!
HOLD ON! LEMME PLUG 'IM!!
HOME...WHERE THE NEIGHBORS THINK ME JUST A HARMLESS COLLECTOR OF OLD-TIME MUSIC! HA!HA!HA!
THOUSANDS OF TUNES, AND THOUSANDS OF CRIMES! HERE'S THE INSPIRATION FOR OUR NEXT JOB--- "IN AN IDLE HOUR YOU BECAME MY IDOL!"
HAVE WE GOTTA LISTEN TO DAT AGAIN?
4

TO THE FIDDLER'S WARPED BRAIN...A MELODY IS LIKE A STIMULATING DRUG..
OH, THE GOLD IN YOUR HAIR, AND THE JEWELS IN YOUR EYES MAKE ME THINK OF AN IDOL 'NEATH FAR ISLAND SKIES...
MAYBE LOOKIN' OVER DA LOOT'LL TAKE ME MIND OFFA DA AGONY!
GENTLY, SAILOR-- THIS ISN'T A SEA-CHANTY!
ABRUPTLY...
HUH?...WHO LET DA CAT OUTA DA BAG?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? I DETEST CATS! GET HIM OUT OF HERE...AT ONCE!
DON'T GET EXCITED! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS OPEN THE HATCH, AN' THE SWAB'LL JUMP SHIP BY HIMSELF!
MY MUSIC!
IN AN IDLE HOUR YOU BECAME MY IDOL
MEANWHILE, GREG SANDERS, THE PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR OF RADIO FAME, HAS HIS SLEEP SPOILED!
...AN WHEN I WOKE UP, THEY WERE GONE! SO I PUT ON SOME DUDS, AN'...
AND CAME STRAIGHT HERE... AND I'M GLAD YOU DID! THE FIDDLER IS BAD MEDICINE!
BUT I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THE VIGILANTE CAN MIX UP AN ANTIDOTE!
I HEAR YOU TALKIN'!
MINUTES LATER...
SO THEY LOOTED GIMCRACK'S JEWELRY STORE!
YEAH...ONLY THEY USED THE ALLEY AT THE BACK!
5

THAT'S THE FOUR-LEGGED STEAM WHISTLE THAT WOKE ME UP! I'D KNOW THAT YOWL ANYWHERE...AN' ONE O' THESE DAYS I'M GONNA AMPUTATE IT!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ANGRY, STUFF... YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE MET THE FIDDLER AGAIN IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THIS CAT!--NICE KITTY, KITTY, KITTY! WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE WEARING?
MEOW?
DON'T TELL ME HE'S STUDYIN' MUSIC!
"IN AN IDLE HOUR YOU BECAME MY IDOL!!!"...THAT'S AN OLD-TIME TEAR-JERKER!
AN' TH' FIDDLER WAS PLAYIN' ANOTHER..."KEEP YOUR ROSES, I WANT DIAMONDS!"
HMM...AN APPROPRIATE TUNE FOR A CROOK TO PLAY WHILE STEALING DIAMONDS... AND THIS ONE MIGHT ALSO BE APPROPRIATE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES!
YA DON'T THINK HE'S PLANNIN' ON KEEPIN' IDLE, DO YA?
THE FIDDLER REMAIN IDLE? NOT A CHANCE! AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN AN UPTOWN MUSEUM...
SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF HEATHEN IDOLS IN MAIN GALLERY.
CRASH!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
TAKE A NAP WIT' DA REST O' DA DUMMIES!
AAAAA
BOP!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SAILOR? DOESN'T MY MUSIC MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE HELPING YOURSELF TO THOSE JEWELS?
QUEER THINGS HAPPEN TO COVES WHAT FOOL WITH HEATHEN IDOLS!
SILLY SUPER-STITION!
6

LISTEN! RECOGNIZE THAT FIDDLE MUSIC?
YOU BET! THERE'S AN OPEN WINDOW!
OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM...
THERE'S WEIRD TALES O' IDOLS STRIKIN' FOLKS DEAD FOR DOIN' WHAT YOU'RE DO-N', DROOP!
HOW RIDICULOUS! AS IF A FIGURE CARVED OUT OF STONE COULD MOVE!
YA HAVE BROUGHT YOUR OWN DOOM DOWN UPON YOUR HEADS, YA FIDDLIN' FATHEADS!
LAUGH AT MY WARNIN', WILL YA, MATIES?
THE NEXT INSTANT...
HA! HA! I AIN'T HAD SO MUCH FUN SINCE TH' PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR HAD LARYNGITIS!
YOUR NEXT SELECTION WILL BE THE "JAILHOUSE BLUES," FIDDLER!
YOU'D HAVE MISSED THIS IF YOU'D STAYED IN PRISON, SPORT!
EXCUSE ME IF I SEEM FAMILIAR!
I MAY BE SUPERSTITIOUS... BUT I FEAR NO LIVING MAN... OW!!
WAK!
POW!
BATTLE'S END!
OH!
BONK!
BONK

BUT THE FIDDLER HAS UNDERESTIMATED THE ABILITY OF THE CRIME-FIGHTERS TO ABSORB PUNISHMENT...AND SOON---
MY NOGGIN FEELS LIKE I COULD USE A CIRCUS TENT FOR A HAT!
DON'T TELL ME...I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!--AND I'M TRYING TO FORGET!
WHAT'S THE RUSH? WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR THEM THUGS!
BUT WE KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR YOUR PAL, THE YODELING TABBY!!
SOME TIME LATER...
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY WE'RE TAKIN' TH' MOUSER ON A JOY RIDE! IT AIN'T AS IF WE NEEDED A SIREN!
I'M ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT IF THERE'S A STRAIN OF BLOODHOUND IN THE CRITTER!
FFFTT!!
A LOOKOUT SPIES THE INVADING PAIR!
HEY! THE VIG AND THE BRAT ARE COMING HERE! THEY MUST BE MADE OF IRON!
AND STILL LATER...AFTER A TORTUOUS TRAIL---
KITTY DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE THIS HOUSE... SO WE'LL STOP!
I GET IT! HE MUST HAVE PICKED UP THAT MUSIC AT TH' CROOKS' HIDEOUT AN' PROBABLY HAD AN UNHAPPY EXPERIENCE THERE!
FFFTTTT
OH-OH! MAYBE IT'S THEY'RE GHOSTS!
COME ABOARD MY DREAMBOAT AND SAIL TO SLUMBERLAND...
A LULLABY! THEY MUST BE GOIN' T' BED!
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO GIVE THEM A RUDE AWAKENING!
YOU SHALL SLEEP AS WE CREEP O'ER THE DEEP!
READY, PARDNER?
JUST TRY ME!

A MOMENT LATER...
ALL RIGHT, YOU SINGING JAILBIRDS! WHAT....!!
LOOK OUT, VIC! THEY'RE ROPIN' US!
WELCOME, LADS!
HURRY! IT'S LONG PAST BEDTIME, AND OUR GUESTS MUST BE TIRED!
AN' YE'RE NOT GOIN' TO WAKE UP!
IT'S MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR...AND JUST AS SURE!
AN ALARM CLOCK...BUT IT WON'T AWAKEN YOU! WHEN THE ALARM RINGS, AN ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT WILL BE CLOSED, AND HIGH TENSION CURRENT WILL FLOW THROUGH THE METAL BED SPRINGS AND YOU GET IT!
A MUSICAL FAREWELL BEFORE WE LEAVE ON OUR NEXT EXPEDITION, VIGILANTE! YOU'LL BE HEARING ANGEL'S HARPS IN TEN MINUTES... OR SOMETHING!
IT'LL SEEM GOOD TO GET ME SEA LEGS UNDER ME AGAIN!
LISTEN TO IT! IT'S DRIVIN' ME WHACKY!
TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK
WONDER IF THAT CAT'S AROUND, AND IF IT'S IN A PLAYFUL MOOD?... KITTY, KITTY, KITTY, KITTY!
IT MUST BE DRIVIN' YOU WHACKY TOO! IMAGINE WANTIN' TO PLAY WITH A CAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
MEEOWWWW?
NICE KITTY... COME RIGHT IN!

THE VIGILANTE'S FOOT BEATS A TATTOO AGAINST THE FOOT OF THE BED, VIBRATING THE COILED WIRES CARRYING THE DEADLY CURRENT...

FFFTT

I BELIEVE HE'S GOING TO DO IT, STUFF... WE MAY GET OUT OF THIS, YET!

FFFTT

IT WORKED! THE CIRCUIT IS BROKEN! NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET OUT OF THESE ROPES!

CLANG!

LATER, AFTER TEDIOUS SAWING OF ROPES AGAINST SHARP BED SPRINGS...

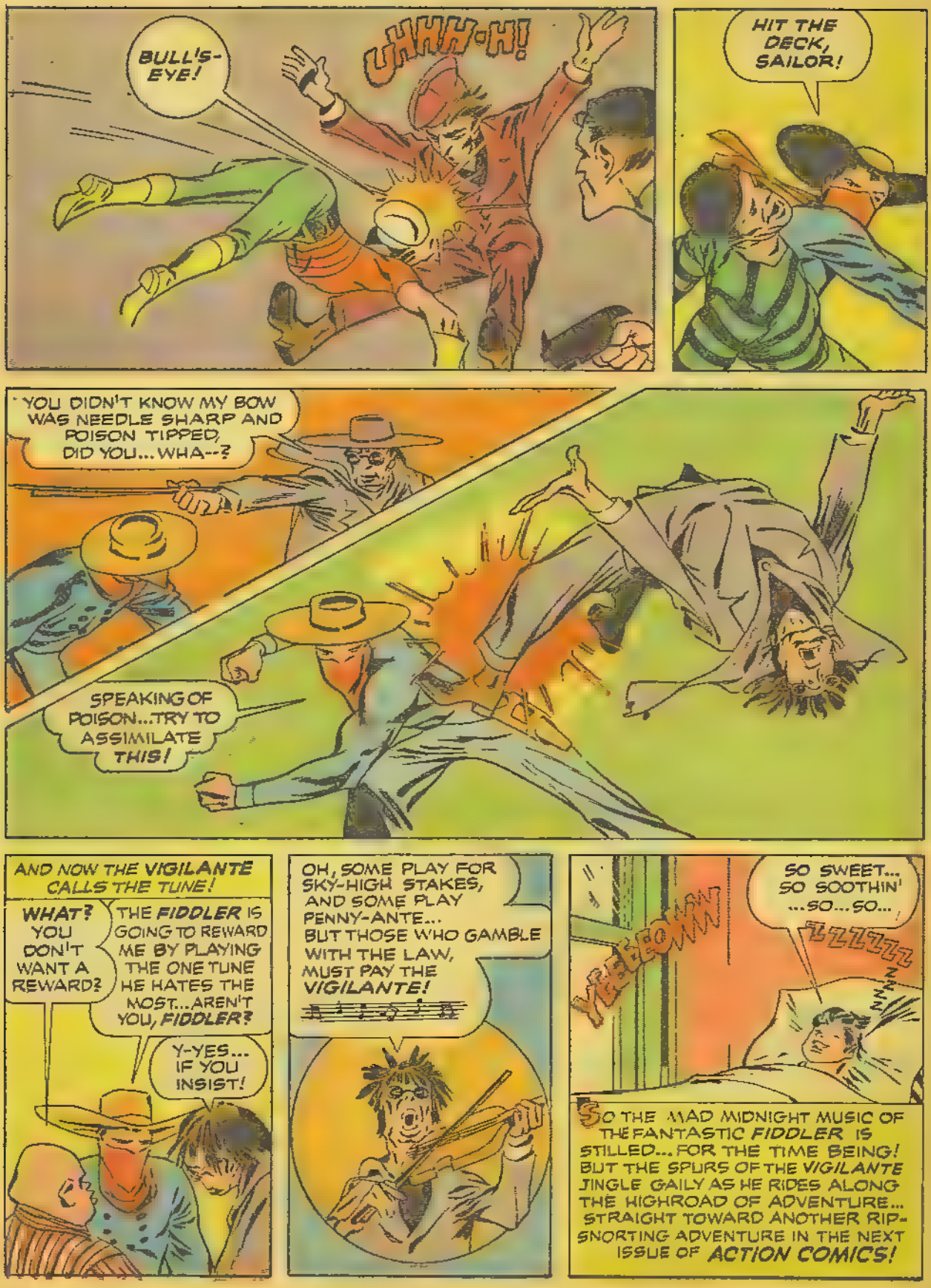
HURRY! THE FIDDLER STILL HAS A HIGH TENSION SHOCK COMING... AND WE'RE GOING TO DELIVER IT IN PERSON!

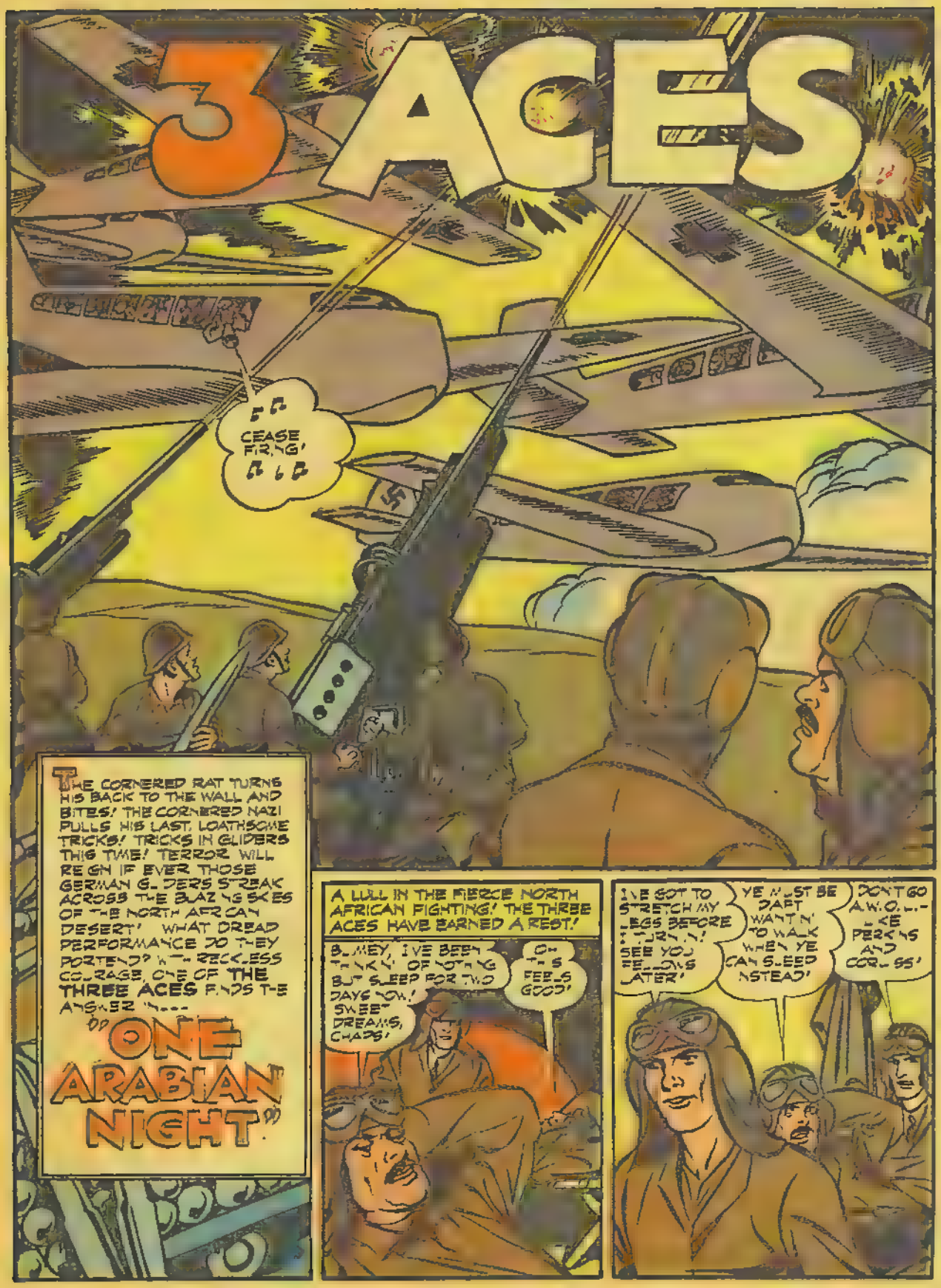
HOW COME?

SAILOR SAID SOMETHING ABOUT SEA-LEGS, AND THE FIDDLER'S TUNE WAS ABOUT A "DREAMBOAT" AND "CREEPING O'ER THE DEEP!" TYRUS TWYCKEN IS GIVING A WEEK-END PARTY ABOARD HIS YACHT "THE DREAM", JUST NOW!

ABOARD "THE DREAM," PALATIAL DIESEL YACHT... A RICH MAN'S GUESTS SLUMBER PEACEFULLY, UNAWARE THAT A NIGHTMARE IS APPROACHING---

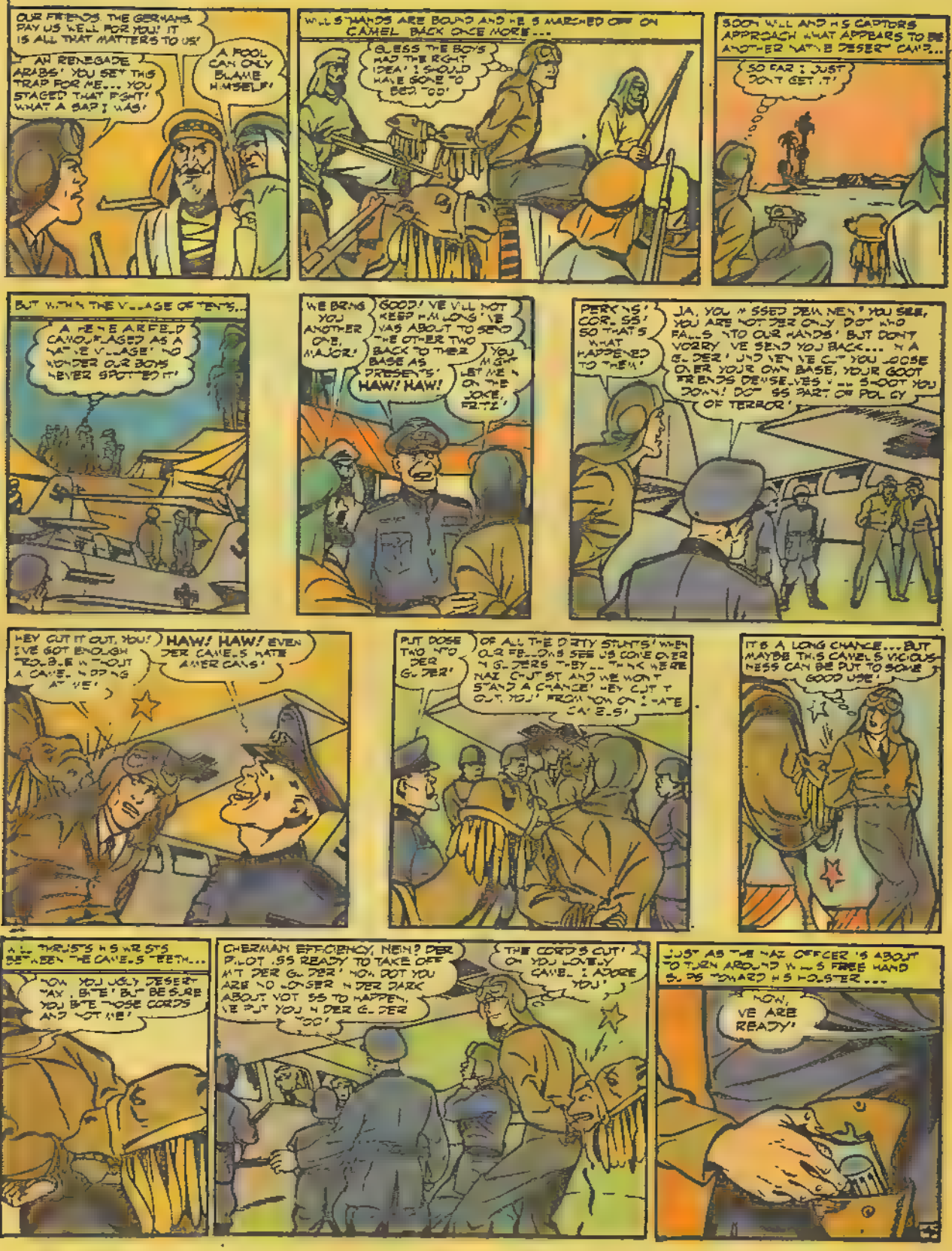
TYRUS TWYCHEN, BILLIONAIRE BANKER, AWAKENS IN HIS SUMPTUOUS STATEROOM...
EH? TIME TO GET UP ALREADY? WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
DON'T BE ALARMED! WE'RE JUST INTRODUCING A NOTE OF NOVELTY TO YOUR PARTY!
YOU SEE, WE TAKE A LONG CRUISE! THE GUESTS ARE LOCKED BELOW DECKS AND FED BREAD AND WATER! THE CRUISE ENDS WHEN EVERYBODY MAKES SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY US FOR OUR TROUBLE!
BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT WOULD RUIN ME SOCIALLY!
ON THE VESSEL'S BRIDGE, A SEAGOING SCALAWAG ISSUES ORDERS...
CAST OFF! LIVELY, THERE!!
MUSIC LILTS THROUGH THE DUSK AS THE PROW OF "THE DREAM" SWINGS TOWARD THE MOUTH OF THE HARBOR...
SUDDENLY...
THE YACHT'S PULLING OUT!
SLOW DOWN, VIC... THIS TIN BRONC WON'T JUMP THAT FAR!
SEE?
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!
CRASH!
I GOT A FUNNY FEELIN' THAT SOMETHIN' WE AIN'T EXPECTIN' IS GONNA HAPPEN---
SHADDAP! YA GIVE ME DA CREEPS!


BULL'S-EYE!
UHHH-H!
HIT THE DECK, SAILOR!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW MY BOW WAS NEEDLE SHARP AND POISON TIPPED, DID YOU... WHA--?
SPEAKING OF POISON...TRY TO ASSIMILATE THIS!
AND NOW THE VIGILANTE CALLS THE TUNE!
WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT A REWARD?
THE FIDDLER IS GOING TO REWARD ME BY PLAYING THE ONE TUNE HE HATES THE MOST...AREN'T YOU, FIDDLER?
Y-YES... IF YOU INSIST!
OH, SOME PLAY FOR SKY-HIGH STAKES, AND SOME PLAY PENNY-ANTE... BUT THOSE WHO GAMBLE WITH THE LAW, MUST PAY THE VIGILANTE!
SO SWEET... SO SOOTHIN' ...SO... SO...
YEEEOWWW
ZZZZZZ
SO THE MAD MIDNIGHT MUSIC OF THE FANTASTIC FIDDLER IS STILLED... FOR THE TIME BEING! BUT THE SPURS OF THE VIGILANTE JINGLE GAILY AS HE RIDES ALONG THE HIGHROAD OF ADVENTURE... STRAIGHT TOWARD ANOTHER RIP-SNORTING ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ACTION COMICS!


3 ACES
CEASE FIRING!
THE CORNERED RAT TURNS HIS BACK TO THE WALL AND BITES! THE CORNERED NAZI PULLS HIS LAST LOATHSOME TRICKS! TRICKS IN GLIDERS THIS TIME! TERROR WILL REIGN IF EVER THOSE GERMAN GLIDERS STREAK ACROSS THE BLAZING SKIES OF THE NORTH AFRICAN DESERT! WHAT DREAD PERFORMANCE DO THEY PORTEND? WITH RECKLESS COURAGE, ONE OF THE THREE ACES FINDS THE ANSWER IN....
"ONE ARABIAN NIGHT"
A LULL IN THE FIERCE NORTH AFRICAN FIGHTING! THE THREE ACES HAVE EARNED A REST!
BLIMEY, I'VE BEEN THINKIN' OF NOTHING BUT SLEEP FOR TWO DAYS NOW! SWEET DREAMS, CHAPS!
OH THIS FEELS GOOD!
I'VE GOT TO STRETCH MY LEGS BEFORE I TURN IN! SEE YOU FELLOWS LATER!
YE MUST BE DAFT WANTIN' TO WALK WHEN YE CAN SLEEP INSTEAD!
DON'T GO AWOL-LIKE PERKINS AND COLLINS!

"BEANDERING AIMLESSLY, W... SOON FINDS HIMSELF IN A NEARBY NATIVE V...AGE...
THIS MUST BE THE LOCAL BROADWAY!
NO! NO! HELP!
WHAT GOES ON THERE? THAT GALS IN A JAM!
TAKE YOUR PAWS OFF THAT GIRL! SHE'S MAKING IT PLAIN ENOUGH THAT SHE DOESN'T LIKE YOU!
JUST IN CASE YOU THOUGHT I WAS KIDDING!
MEDDLING FOOL! YOU DIE FOR THIS!
BUT WILL SIDESTEPS NIMBLY...
YOUR AIM'S TERRIBLE! YOU OUGHT TO EAT MORE CARROTS!
THIS OUGHT TO QUIET YOUR JUMPY NERVES!
HERE... THIS IS NO TIME TO FAINT! IT'S ALL OVER NOW!
OH... THOSE AWFUL MEN...
2

SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!
THOSE MEN KIDNAPPED ME FROM MY UNCLE'S CAMP IN THE DESERT! MY UNCLE IS THE SHEIK ALI RAMED BEY! HE IS RICH! THESE MEN TALKED ABOUT HOLDING ME FOR RANSOM!
WILL VOLUNTEERS TO SEE THE GIRL SAFELY HOME...
THIS IS ONE OF MY UNCLE'S CAMELS! THEY STOLE IT! YOU ARE VERY KIND TO DO THIS FOR ME!
CAN'T VERY WELL LET YOU MAKE THE TRIP ALONE! I'LL HAVE THE COPS PICK THOSE TWO BIRDS UP... THAT IS IF THEY HAVE SUCH THINGS AS COPS IN THIS BURG!
THREE HOURS LATER...
OH, IF ONLY THEY'D BUILD THESE CAMEL SEATS LIKE THOSE NEW P38'S! HOW'S THE RUMBLE SEAT?
SOON WE WILL BE AT MY UNCLE'S CAMP, MY GOOD FRIEND!
AT THE DESERT CAMP OF SHEIK AL RAMED BEY, WILL IS GIVEN A ROYAL RECEPTION...
I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR RESCUING MY NIECE! HAVE MORE COFFEE, PLEASE!
DON'T MENTION IT! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK NOW!
I'LL SEE THAT YOU HAVE A PROPER ESCORT!
CLAP!
SUDDENLY WILL FINDS HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY A MENACING RING OF RIFLES...
SAY, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHY... THESE TWO ARE THE BOYS I HAD THE FIGHT WITH!
3


OUR FRIENDS THE GERMANS PAY US WELL FOR YOU! IT IS ALL THAT MATTERS TO US!
AN RENEGADE ARABS! YOU SET THIS TRAP FOR ME... YOU STAGED THAT FIGHT! WHAT A SAP I WAS!
A FOOL CAN ONLY BLAME HIMSELF!
WILL'S HANDS ARE BOUND AND HE'S MARCHED OFF ON CAMEL BACK ONCE MORE...
GUESS THE BOYS HAD THE RIGHT IDEA! I SHOULD HAVE GONE TO BED, TOO!
SOON WILL AND HIS CAPTORS APPROACH WHAT APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER NATIVE DESERT CAMP...
SO FAR, JUST DON'T GET IT!
BUT WITH THE VILLAGE OF TENTS...
A REAL EARFIELD CAMOUFLAGED AS A NATIVE VILLAGE! NO WONDER OUR BOYS NEVER SPOTTED IT!
WE BRING YOU ANOTHER ONE, MAJOR!
GOOD! WE WILL NOT KEEP HIM LONG! WE WAS ABOUT TO SEND THE OTHER TWO BACK TO THEIR BASE AS PRISONERS! HAW! HAW!
YOU MUST LET ME IN ON THE JOKE, FRITZ!
PERKINS, CORPS! SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM!
JA, YOU MISSED DEM, NEIN! YOU SEE, YOU ARE NOT DER ONLY DOT WHO FALLS INTO OUR HANDS! BUT DONT VORRY WE SEND YOU BACK... IN A GLIDER! JUST VEN WE CUT YOU LOOSE OVER YOUR OWN BASE, YOUR GOOT FRIENDS DEFENSES WILL SHOOT YOU DOWN! DOT IS PART OF POLICY OF TERROR!
HEY CUT IT OUT, YOU! I'VE GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE WITHOUT A CAMEL NIPPING AT ME!
HAW! HAW! EVEN DER CAMELS HATE AMERICANS!
PUT DOSE TWO INTO DER GLIDER!
OF ALL THE DIRTY STUNTS! WHEN OUR FELLOWS SEE US COME OVER IN GLIDERS THEY'LL THINK WE'RE NAZI CUTOUTS AND WE WON'T STAND A CHANCE! HEY CUT IT OUT, YOU! FROM NOW ON I HATE CAMELS!
IT'S A LONG CHANCE... BUT MAYBE THIS CAMEL'S VICIOUSNESS CAN BE PUT TO SOME GOOD USE!
ALL THRUSTS HIS WRISTS BETWEEN THE CAMEL'S TEETH...
NOW YOU VILL DESERT MAX, BITE! BUT BE SURE YOU BITE THOSE CORDS AND NOT ME!
GERMAN EFFICIENCY, NEIN? DER PILOT ISS READY TO TAKE OFF MIT DER GLIDER! NOW DOT YOU ARE NO LONGER IN DER DARK ABOUT VOT ISS TO HAPPEN, VE PUT YOU IN DER GLIDER TOO!
THE CORD'S CUT! OH YOU LOVELY CAMEL! I ADORE YOU!
JUST AS THE NAZI OFFICER IS ABOUT TO TURN AROUND WILL'S FREE HAND SLIDES TOWARD HIS HOLSTER...
NOW, VE ARE READY!

YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL... FRITZ! WE CERTAINLY ARE!
"E... THOSE BOYS OF YOURS OUT TO HOME OR THEY... HAVE A MAJOR WITH A GREAT BIG HOLE IN HIS BACK!
NOW UNTIE THEM QUICKLY MAJOR! AMERICAN EFFICIENCY, HEH?
JA! JA! ONLY DON'T SHOOT B-BASE!
WOW... YOU'RE A GENIUS!
INTO THAT STUKA, FELLOWS! WE CAN LEAVE THE BOMBLOAD RIGHT ON THIS LITTLE NEST!
AS WILL STARTS THE MOTOR OF THE STUKA, THE NAZIS FIRE IN DESPERATION...
INSIDE FAST!
THE NAZIS BULLETS ARE WASTED AS THE BOMBER SOARS AWAY...
CURSED AMERICANSCHWEIN!
LET 'EM HAVE IT NOW PERKINS! WE'VE GOT TO WIPE THEIR LITTLE SECRET BASE OFF THE MAP!
A PLEASURE! HERE GOES!
THE ENTIRE BOMBLOAD IS DROPPED ON THE SERVICE END...
BOOM!
AS THE STUKA APPROACHES THE ALLIED AIRDROME THE THREE AMERICANS BAIL OUT!
IT WAS TOO LATE... OF THOSE GUNS TO LEAVE THE GUNNERS IN THE PLANE! THE PILOTS ABANDON THIS SHIP OR GUNNERS WOULD SHOOT US DOWN!
BACK IN HIS QUARTERS IN... JUST MANAGES TO GET INTO HIS COT WHEN...
WORKING A... SEE YOU WERE SENT TO BE AN OUT SO B... BLINKIN' SPEED AFTER ALL!
YEP! NOTHING LIKE TAKING YOUR ELDERS ADVICE!
YOU TOO CAN HELP DOWN THE AXIS.. BUY WAR BONDS and STAMPS_
PRIZE COMICS
ACTION THAT ZINGS!
ASK FOR THESE SWELL COMIC MAGAZINES AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!
HEADLINE COMICS

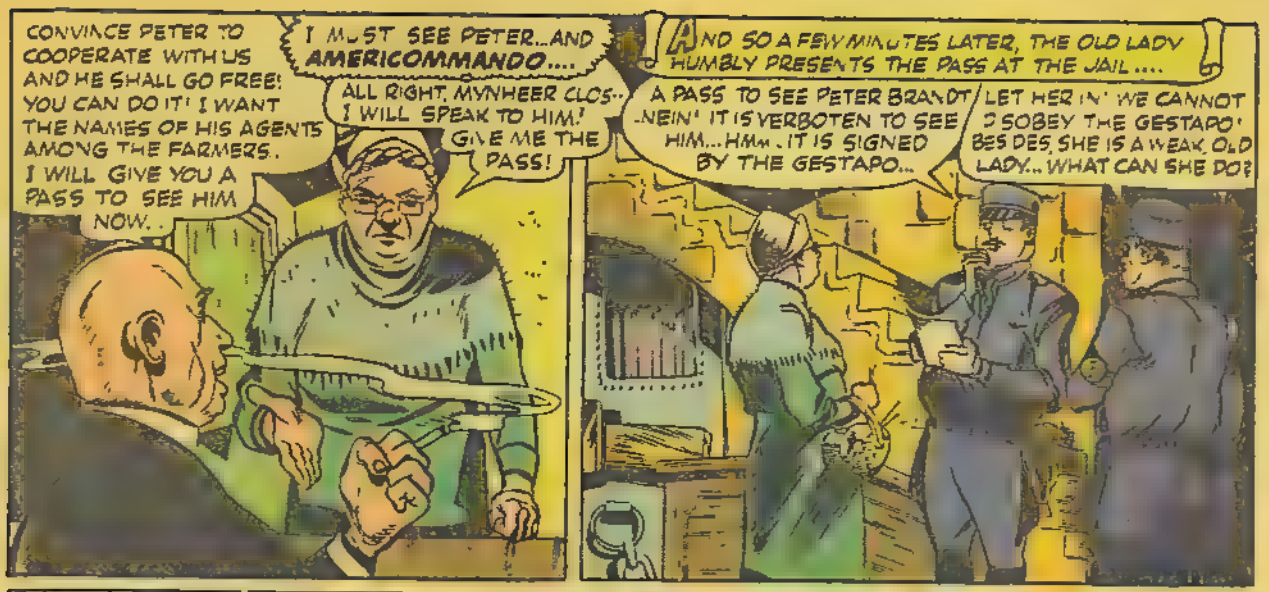
AMERICOMMANDO
BY BERNARD BAILY...
"THE HUMBLEST CITIZEN IN ALL THE LAND, WHEN CLAD IN THE ARMOR OF A RIGHTEOUS CAUSE, IS STRONGER THAN ALL THE HOSTS OF ERROR!" WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN
IN HOLLAND, WHERE SKATERS ONCE MADE THE DIKEWAYS RING WITH THEIR MERRY SHOUTS ON FROSTY WINTER EVENINGS, THE NAZIS, SUPPORTED BY A HANDFUL OF TRAITORS, RULE WITH AN IRON HAND!.. BUT TRUE DUTCH HEARTS BEAT A TATTOO OF COURAGE TO HERALD THE REBIRTH OF LIBERTY WHEN AMERICOMMANDO, ACE-FIGHTER AGAINST ODDS, LEADS THEM IN A STRUGGLE TO DAM BACK THE FASCIST HORDES WITH....
"THE DIKES OF DEATH!"

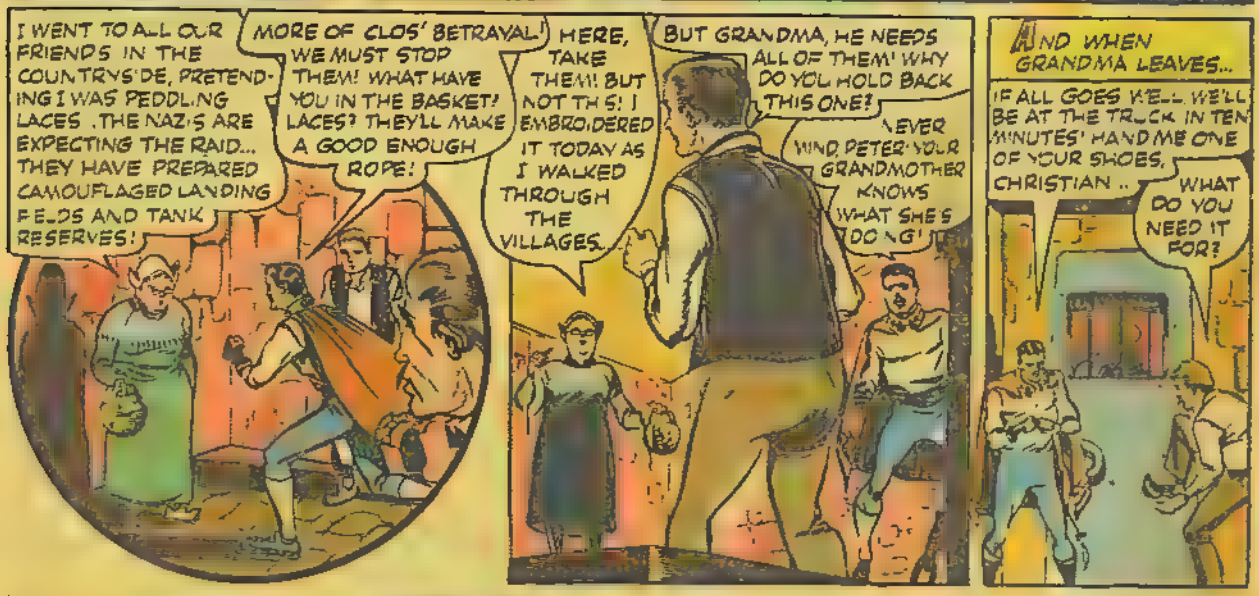
The little lace shop of old "Grandma" Brandt in a sidestreet of conquered Holland, looks innocent enough when seen from the outside....
LOOK, LUDWIG, A MAN GOING INTO A LADIES LACE SHOP! HA, HA!
THESE DEMOCRACIES! THEY ARE WEAK UND EFFEMINATE! LACES FOR A MAN! HA, HA!
LACE SHOP
But in the back room of the store where the old woman lives.. a small group of the Dutch underground movement is meeting!
YOU ARE LATE AGAIN, VAN DER CLOS'
WHO CALLED THIS MEETING? IT IS STUPID TO MEET IN BROAD DAYLIGHT! I PROTEST AGAINST SUCH GOINGS ON!
HE DID!
AMERICOMMANDO! YOU HERE! BUT THE GESTAPO! THEY WOULD GIVE A FORTUNE TO KNOW THIS!
THEY'LL KNOW IT FOR NOTHING —AFTER WE DO OUR JOB!
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING AN ALLIED LANDING IN FORCE ON THE COAST NEAR HAARLEM FOR SOME TIME NOW--- I JUST RECEIVED WORD ABOUT IT... THEY LAND TONIGHT! AND WE MUST PAVE THE WAY FOR THEM! THAT'S WHY WE'RE HAVING THIS EMERGENCY MEETING!
YOU ARE SURE IT WILL BE TONIGHT?
AT LAST! WILL IT BE SOON?
WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?
WE MUST HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION READY FOR THE LANDING PARTY--THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ENEMY, AIRDROMES AND TANKS, THE CANAL-CROSSINGS, THE DIKES!
I'LL GO AT ONCE! SOME OF THIS INFORMATION WILL HAVE TO BE GATHERED FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE! I SHOULD HAVE IT ALL BY DUSK!
BE CAREFUL THEN, PETER!..
WE'LL MEET TONIGHT, BUT NOT HERE! NOT GOOD POLICY TO MEET IN THE SAME PLACE TWICE IN ONE DAY!
AT MY HOUSE, IT IS MOST CONVENIENT... I'LL LEAVE NOW!..
ALL RIGHT I'LL BE THERE!

IT WOULD HELP IF ANY BRIDGE PROVIDING CROSSINGS FOR POSSIBLE NAZI REINFORCEMENTS SHOULD BE BLOWN UP TONIGHT! GET YOUR TRUCK LOADED WITH DYNAMITE, CHRISTIAN, AND PARK IT NEAR THE HOME OF VAN DER CLOS
I SHALL DO THAT! GOODBYE UNTIL TONIGHT!
BUT THE BEST LAID PLANS GO WRONG! MINUTES LATER, THE DOOR FLIES OPEN, AND...
AMERICOMMANDO! THEY HAVE ARRESTED PETER! I JUST SAW THEM TAKING HIM OFF TO JAIL!
MY PETER! THEY WILL KILL HIM!
HOW ABOUT VAN DER CLOS? DID THEY GET HIM TOO?
NO, PETER WAS CAPTURED ALONE!
PETER CAN BE FREED TONIGHT WHEN THE RAID COMES--BUT THAT INFORMATION... WE MUST HAVE IT BEFOREHAND, AND I DON'T KNOW THE PEOPLE WE CAN TRUST!
BUT I DO! LET ME GO IN MY GRANDSON'S PLACE, AMERICOMMANDO!
BUT HOW CAN YOU DO IT, GRANNY? YOU ARE TOO OLD TO GO WANDERING THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE! AND BESIDES YOU CAN'T EVEN READ OR WRITE! DO YOU EXPECT TO CARRY ALL THAT INFORMATION IN YOUR HEAD?
IT IS TRUE THAT I AM OLD. AND TRUE THAT MY EYES CANNOT READ, NOR MY FINGERS GUIDE PEN OR PENCIL ...(CHUCKLE) GOOD ONLY FOR KNITTING AND EMBROIDERY THEY ARE. BUT GRANNY HAS HER OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS I WILL GO!
HMM... I BELIEVE YOU CAN DO IT, GRANDMA!
I'LL GET THE DYNAMITE READY, AMERICOMMANDO.
YES, GET PLENTY OF IT...
STRANGE, PETER BEING PICKED UP LIKE THAT.. IT CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION...
SLIPPING QUIETLY THROUGH DARK ALLEYS AND BACKYARDS, AMERICA'S SUPERBLY TRAINED SOLDIER ARRIVES AT HIS DESTINATION --THE REAR OF THE VAN DER CLOS MANSION!
THIS IS JUST A HUNCH --BUT MY HUNCHES HAVE BEEN RIGHT BEFORE.. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED OUR MEETING HERE... VAN CLOS LIVES MUCH TOO CLOSE TO THE POLICE STATION...
NO ONE SEEMS TO BE AROUND... THIS IS MY CHANCE.. MUST BE SURE OF ALL THE WORKERS IN THE UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT.. AND VAN DER CLOS IS A NEW RECRUIT...

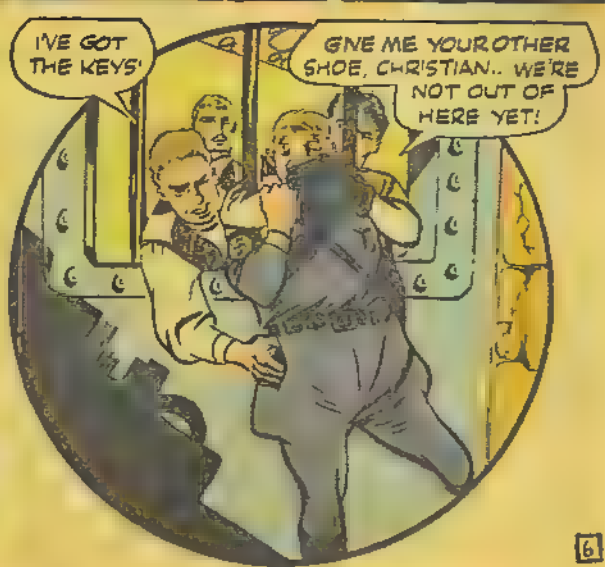
NOTHING SUSPICIOUS IN HERE APPARENTLY ...WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT'S THAT!?
A DICTAPHONE PLANTED IN THE ROOM! I'LL SEE WHERE THIS WIRE LEADS TO!
INTO THE NEXT ROOM... NOW FOR A LOOK THROUGH...
GESTAPO MEN! AND VERY MUCH AT HOME IN VAN DER CLOS' HOUSE: WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT QUISLING --WHO'S THAT COMING?
RIGHT THIS WAY, MY DEAR HERR SPITZEN! COME INTO MY LIBRARY, PLEASE!
HERE WE CAN TALK WITHOUT BEING DISTURBED, HERR SPITZEN! I TELL YOU THAT AMERICOMMANDO HIMSELF WILL BE HERE SOON!
HA! DOT VILL BE VERY GOOD! IMAGINE ---- I SUCCEED WHERE EVEN DR ITO HIMSELF HAS FAILED! I VILL CATCH AMERICOMMANDO!
DON'T FORGET, HERR SPITZEN, HE IS DANGEROUS! IF HE SHOULD FIND OUT THAT I..
DO NOT FEAR! I SHALL HAVE PLENTY OF MY MEN IN DIS VERY ROOM! I'VE SHALL ZURRO'UND HIM UND OUTNU! ÜBER HIM! INTO DER CLOSET DUMKOPFS TO VAIT FOR DER COMING OF AMERICOMMANDO!
4

But the Gestapo men don't have to wait!
THE BEST DEFENSE IS ATTACK!
HELP! IT IS AMERICOMMANDO !!
SEIZE HIM! HE HAS SAVED US TIME! DON'T LET HIM EGGSCAPE!
ZO! YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL ME LIKE THE REST OF DER IDIOTS!.. THERE!
TRY AND STOP ME.. OOP!
HE ISS DER MAN YOU ALL THOUGHT WAS DANGEROUS! HA,HA,HA! LOOK AT HIM NOW! I HAVE CAUGHT HIM ZINGLE-HANDED..MIT MY MEN!.. TAKE HIM TO DER JAIL!
YOU WON'T FORGET THAT I HELPED, HERR COLONEL SPITZEN...THERE IS A REWARD FOR GOOD SERVICES.
Peter captured!..Van Clos a traitor!... AMERICOMMANDO cast into a prison cell... Who is left to carry on the plan now? Not even ..
CHRISTIAN! YOU HERE, TOO?
YES! I WAS BETRAYED AS PETER WAS!
AMERI-COMMANDO! NOW OUR PLAN IS INDEED IN RUINS!
NOTHING HAS GONE RIGHT! I, WHO WAS TO GET INFORMATION, WAS CAPTURED BEFORE I EVEN GOT STARTED!
AND I--I GOT THE DYNAMITE AND PARKED IT WITH THE TRUCK NEAR VAN CLOS' HOUSE..BUT WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO NOW?
ONE OF US IS STILL FREE--GRANDMA BRANDT! LISTEN... IF SHE SUCCEEDS, IT MUSTN'T BE FOR NOTHING! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT!
Evening is falling as Grandma Brandt returns from her arduous mission...
AMERICOMMANDO! WHERE ARE YOU?
THERE IS NO ONE HERE! HE MUST HAVE GONE TO MYNHEER VAN DER CLOS... I WILL GO THERE...
And the tired old lady unsuspecting, visits the traitor..
WHERE IS AMERICOMMANDO? ... WHAT?..!
WHERE ALL TRAITORS TO DER FUEHRER ARE! IN JAIL! AND HE WILL BE SHOT WITH YOUR GRANDSON, PETER! BUT I CAN SAVE YOUR GRANDSON IF YOU HELP ME!
5


CONVINCE PETER TO COOPERATE WITH US AND HE SHALL GO FREE! YOU CAN DO IT! I WANT THE NAMES OF HIS AGENTS AMONG THE FARMERS. I WILL GIVE YOU A PASS TO SEE HIM NOW..
I MUST SEE PETER...AND AMERICOMMANDO....
ALL RIGHT, MYNHEER CLOS.. I WILL SPEAK TO HIM! GIVE ME THE PASS!
AND SO A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE OLD LADY HUMBLY PRESENTS THE PASS AT THE JAIL....
A PASS TO SEE PETER BRANDT -NEIN! IT IS VERBOTEN TO SEE HIM...HMm. IT IS SIGNED BY THE GESTAPO...
LET HER IN! WE CANNOT DISOBEY THE GESTAPO! BES DES, SHE IS A WEAK, OLD LADY... WHAT CAN SHE DO?


I WENT TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, PRETENDING I WAS PEDDLING LACES. THE NAZIS ARE EXPECTING THE RAID... THEY HAVE PREPARED CAMOUFLAGED LANDING FIELDS AND TANK RESERVES!
MORE OF CLOS' BETRAYAL! WE MUST STOP THEM! WHAT HAVE YOU IN THE BASKET? LACES? THEY'LL MAKE A GOOD ENOUGH ROPE!
HERE, TAKE THEM! BUT NOT THIS! I EMBROIDERED IT TODAY AS I WALKED THROUGH THE VILLAGES.
BUT GRANDMA, HE NEEDS ALL OF THEM! WHY DO YOU HOLD BACK THIS ONE?
NEVER MIND, PETER! YOUR GRANDMOTHER KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING!
AND WHEN GRANDMA LEAVES...
IF ALL GOES WELL, WE'LL BE AT THE TRUCK IN TEN MINUTES! HAND ME ONE OF YOUR SHOES, CHRISTIAN..
WHAT DO YOU NEED IT FOR?

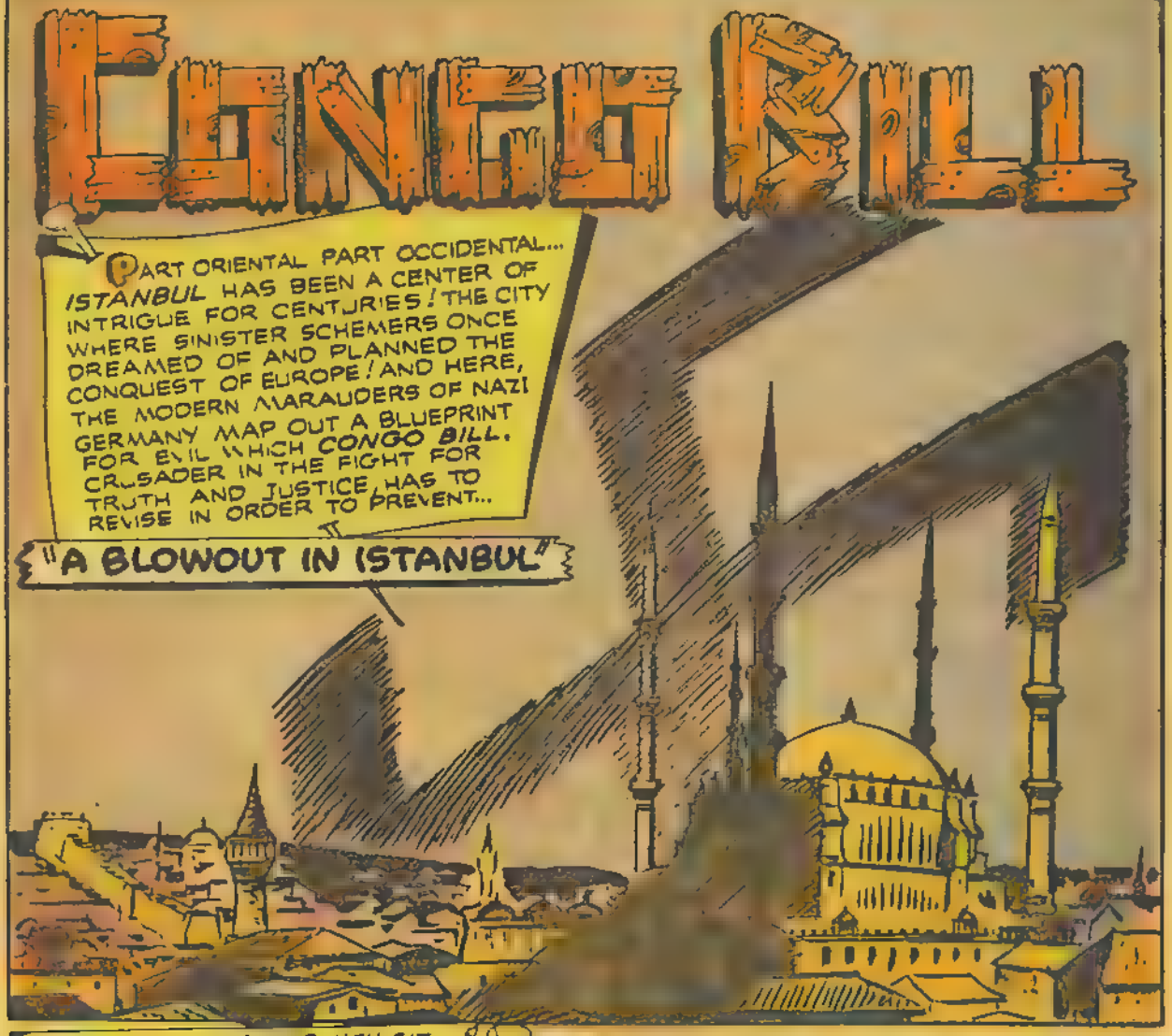
AMERICOMMANDO DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATES HIS USE FOR BOTH FINERY AND FOOTWEAR!
NOW TO PULL HIM TOWARD US!....AND TAKE HIS KEYS!

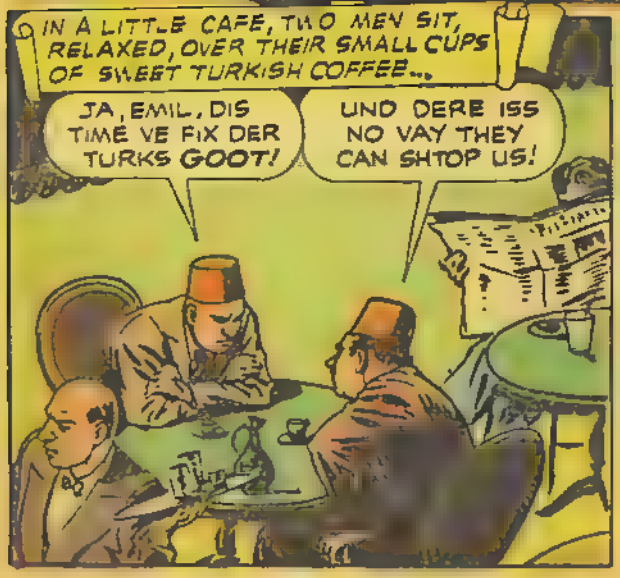

I'VE GOT THE KEYS!
GIVE ME YOUR OTHER SHOE, CHRISTIAN.. WE'RE NOT OUT OF HERE YET!

WATCH THIS! TWO STRIKES WITH ONE THROW!
JUST LIKE THE ARGENTINE GAUCHOS!
WAS IST? HIMMEL! GLUG!
A SECRET WEAP-- UGH!
THE TRUCK IS PARKED DOWN THIS BLOCK!
WAIT! THERE'S GRANDMA...WITH CLOS!
WE'LL USE THAT TRAITOR TO HELP US! GRAB H M!
SO PETER PROMISED TO AID ME! GOOD WORK, OLD LADY! I....OWEE! AMERICOMMANDO HAS ESCAPED!
YES! YOU'LL BE THE CAPTIVE THIS TIME!
GRANDMA! YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE HOME!
DON'T BE FOOLISH, MY BOY! AM I NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THE NAZ S HAVE PLACED THEMSE_VES IN' PREPARATION FOR AN ALLIED LANDING!
SHOW THEM GRANDMA!
I EMBROIDERED EACH PIECE OF INFORMATION AS I GOT IT! EACH STAR IS AN AIRDROME.... EACH DOT IS A TANK... THE LINES ARE DIKES... THIS IS THE MAIN DIKE THAT HOLDS BACK THE WATERS...
T.N.T.
DANGER!
WE'VE LOST TIME! THE LANDING OPERATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN! GOT TO GET TO THE MAIN DIKES! WE'LL USE OUR DYNAMITE FOR SOMETHING BETTER THAN BLOWING UP BRIDGES!
BUT THE DIKES ARE GUARDED HEAVILY, HOW CAN WE GET THROUGH?

THAT'S WHERE OUR FRIEND, THE RAT, IS GOING TO HELP US! AREN'T YOU, HERR VAN DER CLOS?
YES, YES! ANYTHING YOU SAY! BUT DO NOT KILL ME!
HEIL HITLER! FROM THE GESTAPO!..MY CREDENTIALS WE MUST PASS THROUGH!
AH! THE GESTAPO! YOU MAY PASS! HEIL HITLER!
THE TRUCK ROARING ON THROUGH THE NIGHT, SOON REACHES THE MAIN DIKES, AND..
THIS IS THE CRUCIAL SPOT IN YOUR EMBROIDERY GRANNY! WE'RE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE IT WITH A BANG!
GRANDMA, TAKE GOOD CARE OF VAN CLOS!
I'LL SEE THAT HE BEHAVES!
ALL READY, AMERICOMMANDO!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!
TNT
THIS PUTS A HOLE INTO HITLER'S NEW ORDER!
THEIR TANKS WILL SINK IN THE MUD AND THEIR PLANES WILL NEVER GET OFF THE GROUND!
OUR LANDING FORCE WILL NOT MEET MUCH OPPOSITION NOW.. THEY'LL BE HERE SOON..
THE NAZIS COUNTED HEAVILY ON THESE FORCES..
SO, GRANDMA, YOUR LACE COLLAR DOES DOUBLE DUTY- IT DROWNS THE ENEMY AND IS A NOOSE AROUND A TRAITORS NECK!
LOOK! THERE'S A SCOUTING PARTY FROM THE ALLIED LANDING FORCE..
IT MAKES ME FEEL YOUNG AGAIN TO SEE THEM!
WE'LL TURN YOUR LACE COLLAR OVER TO THEM, GRANDMA! THEY'LL KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO CARRY ON WHAT WE STARTED.. THANKS TO YOU!
IF YOU, TOO, WANT TO KNIT A NOOSE FOR HITLER, BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS! LACE IT INTO THE AXIS BY SALVAGING SCRAP!
BERNARD BAILY

CONGO BILL


PART ORIENTAL PART OCCIDENTAL... ISTANBUL HAS BEEN A CENTER OF INTRIGUE FOR CENTURIES! THE CITY WHERE SINISTER SCHEMERS ONCE DREAMED OF AND PLANNED THE CONQUEST OF EUROPE! AND HERE, THE MODERN MARAUDERS OF NAZI GERMANY MAP OUT A BLUEPRINT FOR EVIL WHICH CONGO BILL, CRUSADER IN THE FIGHT FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE, HAS TO REVISE IN ORDER TO PREVENT...
"A BLOWOUT IN ISTANBUL"


IN A LITTLE CAFE, TWO MEN SIT, RELAXED, OVER THEIR SMALL CUPS OF SWEET TURKISH COFFEE...
JA, EMIL, DIS TIME VE FIX DER TURKS GOOT!
UND DERE ISS NO VAY THEY CAN SHTOP US!

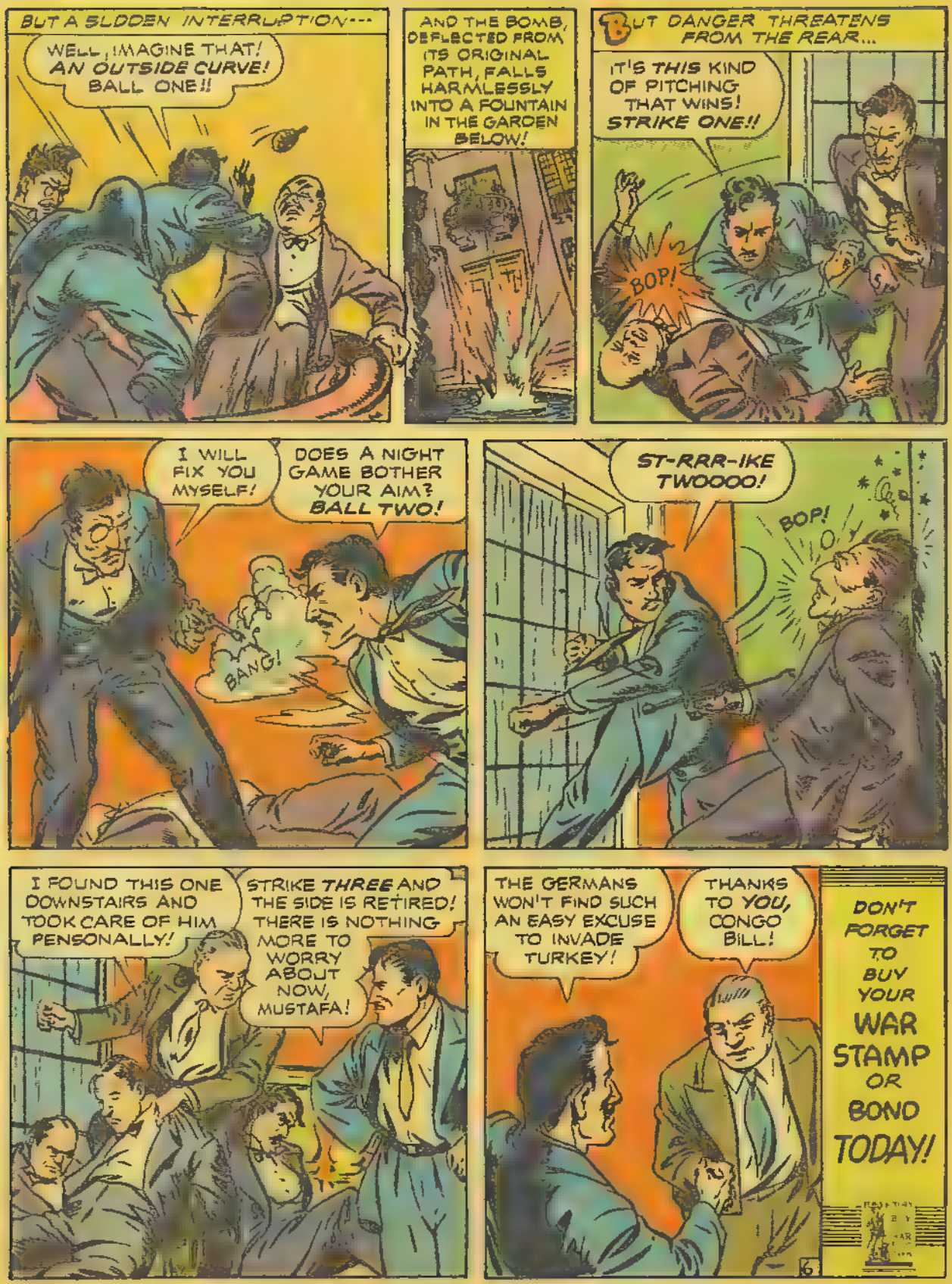
VILL IT TAKE LONG TO FINISH DEM OFF, EMIL?
NEIN! DER TURKS VILL GIVE IN AS QUICK AS ALL DER OTHERS!

AN INTERESTED LISTENER FROWNS BEHIND HIS NEWSPAPER...CONGO BILL...GLOBE-TROTTING ADVENTURER!
VE MUST SEE DAT DER AFFAIR OVER DERE GOES OFF WITH DER GREATEST SUCCESS... TONIGHT!
DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE SAYS "GOES OFF!
THOSE MEN ARE DRESSED LIKE TURKS, BUT THEY TALK LIKE GERMANS! THERE MUST BE SOME REASON FOR SUCH CLOTHES!
AND NOW I MUST SEE ABOUT COMPLETING ARRANGE-MENTS!
HE LOOKS LIKE THE GUY WITH THE INFOR-MATION I NEED...I'LL JUST FOLLOW HIM TO SEE WHERE HE GOES!
THROUGH THE WINDING STREETS OF ISTANBUL, BILL TRAILS THE MAN IN THE RED TARBOOSH, Then...
WHAT WOULD HE WANT IN AN ENGLISH RADIO SHOP?
I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ONE OF YOUR TABLE MODELS, PLEASE!
WHY, CERTAINLY, SIR!
MINUTES LATER, BILL'S EARS ARE KEENLY ATTUNED...BUT NOT TO MUSIC!
THE SALESMAN HAS GONE INTO THE BACK ROOM! NOW, I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO CATCH WHAT IS GOING ON BACK THERE!
USING DIS ENGLISH RADIO STORE FOR A FRONT MAKES THINGS MUCH EASIER, YOUR EGGZELLENZY!
BE STILL...AND LIS-TEN TO FINAL ORDERS! AT THE GERMAN CONSULATE RECEP-TION, TONIGHT, WE WILL MAKE AN "INCIDENT"!
RADIO
2

T IS NOW EIGHT O'CLOCK.. THE RECEPTION WILL BE AT ITS HEIGHT AT 10! EXACTLY AT THAT TIME YOU WILL THROW THE BOMB!
JA, EGGZELLENZY... UND EVERYTHING ISS READY! I HAFF A TURKISH ARMY GRENADE WHICH DER EXPERTS VILL TRACE TO DER TURKS!
TONIGHT'S RECEPTION WILL HAVE MANY SURPRISES, N.CHT WAR?
UND DER BIGGEST SURPRISE VILL BE VHEN DER FUEHRER SENDS OUR INVINCIBLE ARMY TO AVENGE THIS ATTACK ON OUR PEOPLE!
IF THEY INVADE TURKEY SUCCESSFULLY, IT WILL ALLOW THEM TO ATTACK THE REAR OF THE BRITISH ARMY! I MUST BREAK UP THIS DEVILISH PLOT!
SO! DID YOUR HEAR ENOUGH? IT ISS A SHAME, FOR NOW I MUST DISPOSE OF YOU!
THANKS... BUT I'LL DO SOME D.SPOSING... OF TRASH!
NOSEY PEOPLE ARE NOT VELCOME HERE!
EXCELLENT!! NOW I MUST GO, BUT MEET ME AT THE RECEPTION AT 9:30 SHARP!
AHHH!
HE VILL BE OUT FOR HOURS!
GOOD WORK, EMIL... THROW HIM IN HERE!

THE HANDS OF TIME MOVE SWIFTLY---
AND AS CONGO BILL AWAKES, HEAD POUNDING---
MUST HAVE BEEN OUT FOR HOURS! WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS?
FROM A GLOOMY CORNER COMES A VOICE ----
I WOULD NOT KNOW! I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THREE DAYS!
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM MUSTAFA PASHA OF THE TURKISH SECRET SERVICE! THE NAZIS PLAN TO GET TURKEY INTO THE WAR! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
KEEN EYES ROVE THE ROOM FOR A MEANS OF ESCAPE, AND..
PHONOGRAPH RECORDS! IF I CAN GET OVER TO THOSE SHELVES, WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE!
ROLLING OVER TO THE SHELVES, BILL NUDGES THEM WITH HIS BODY---
I HOPE THIS NOISE WON'T BRING THOSE DEVILS... NOW TO GET MY HANDS ON SOME OF THOSE BROKEN RECORDS!
QUICK, HARD STROKES WITH THE JAGGED EDGE OF A PHONOGRAPH RECORD ..AND...
I'LL BE THROUGH HERE IN A JIFFY, MUSTAFA! THEN WE'LL FREE YOU AND SEE ABOUT GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE!
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME...I HEARD THEM ARRANGE TO MEET AT NINE-THIRTY!
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
THERE IS NO ONE IN THE STREET TO CALL! WE MUST TRY TO ATTRACT SOMEONE IN ANOTHER WAY!
THE DOOR IS HEAVILY BOLTED FROM THE OUTSIDE! AND THE STORE IS DARK AND DESERTED! WAIT...THOSE CARTONS GIVE ME AN IDEA!
4

WE MUST HURRY! THERE IS ONLY HALF AN HOUR LEFT!
IF THIS DOESN'T BLOW THE FUSE WE'LL BE IN CLOVER! GET READY FOR A BLACKOUT!
STRIPPING THE BULB AND IT'S CONNECTIONS FROM THE ELECRIC WIRES, BILL PLUNGES THE ROOM INTO DARKNESS!
NOTHING LIKE THROWING A LITTLE LIGHT ON A TOUGH PROBLEM!
IF THIS DOESN'T ATTRACT ANY ATTENTION...I'LL REALLY BE BURNED UP!
WAIT!! SOMEONE IS COMING!
ARE YOU CRAZY? DO YOU WANT TO SET ALL ISTANBUL ON FIRE: OH.. MUSTAFA PASHA. WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?
STOP ASKING QUESTIONS! GET US OUT OF HERE! THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE!
MEANWHILE, AT THE GERMAN CONSULATE, THE RECEPTION IS IN FULL SWING! THRONGS OF DIPLOMATS, AGENTS, AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES CROWD THE MAIN ROOMS...
AND IN A SECLUDED CORNER..
ALL ISS IN READINESS, EGGZELLENZY!
GOOD! THIRTY SECONDS TO GO! IT'S TIME TO ACT!
HEIL HITLER!
HEIL HITLER!
6


BUT A SLODDEN INTERRUPTION---
WELL, IMAGINE THAT! AN OUTSIDE CURVE! BALL ONE!!
AND THE BOMB, DEFLECTED FROM ITS ORIGINAL PATH, FALLS HARMLESSLY INTO A FOUNTAIN IN THE GARDEN BELOW!
BUT DANGER THREATENS FROM THE REAR...
IT'S THIS KIND OF PITCHING THAT WINS! STRIKE ONE!!
BOP!
I WILL FIX YOU MYSELF!
DOES A NIGHT GAME BOTHER YOUR AIM? BALL TWO!
BANG!
ST-RRR-IKE TWOOOO!
BOP!
I FOUND THIS ONE DOWNSTAIRS AND TOOK CARE OF HIM PENSONALLY!
STRIKE THREE AND THE SIDE IS RETIRED! THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO WORRY ABOUT NOW, MUSTAFA!
THE GERMANS WON'T FIND SUCH AN EASY EXCUSE TO INVADE TURKEY!
THANKS TO YOU, CONGO BILL!
DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR WAR STAMP OR BOND TODAY!
6

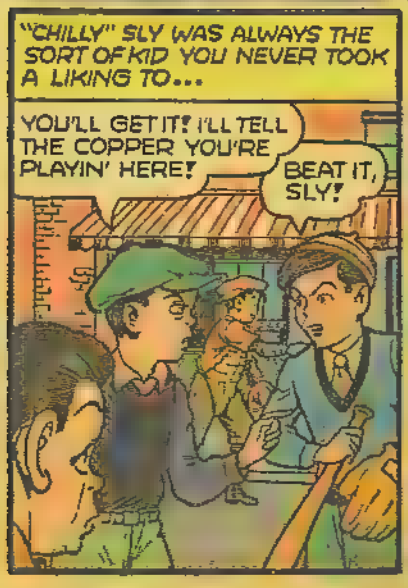
ZATARA
THE MASTER MAGICIAN

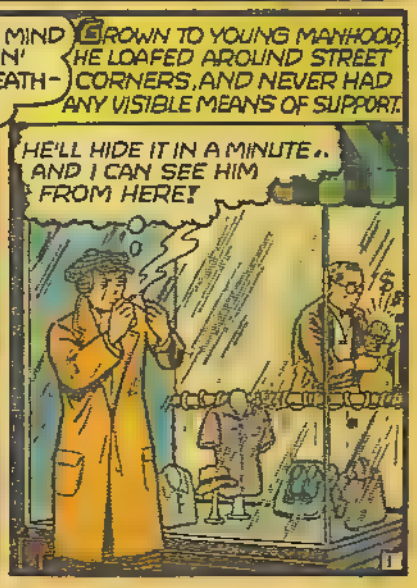
by JOSEPH SULMAN

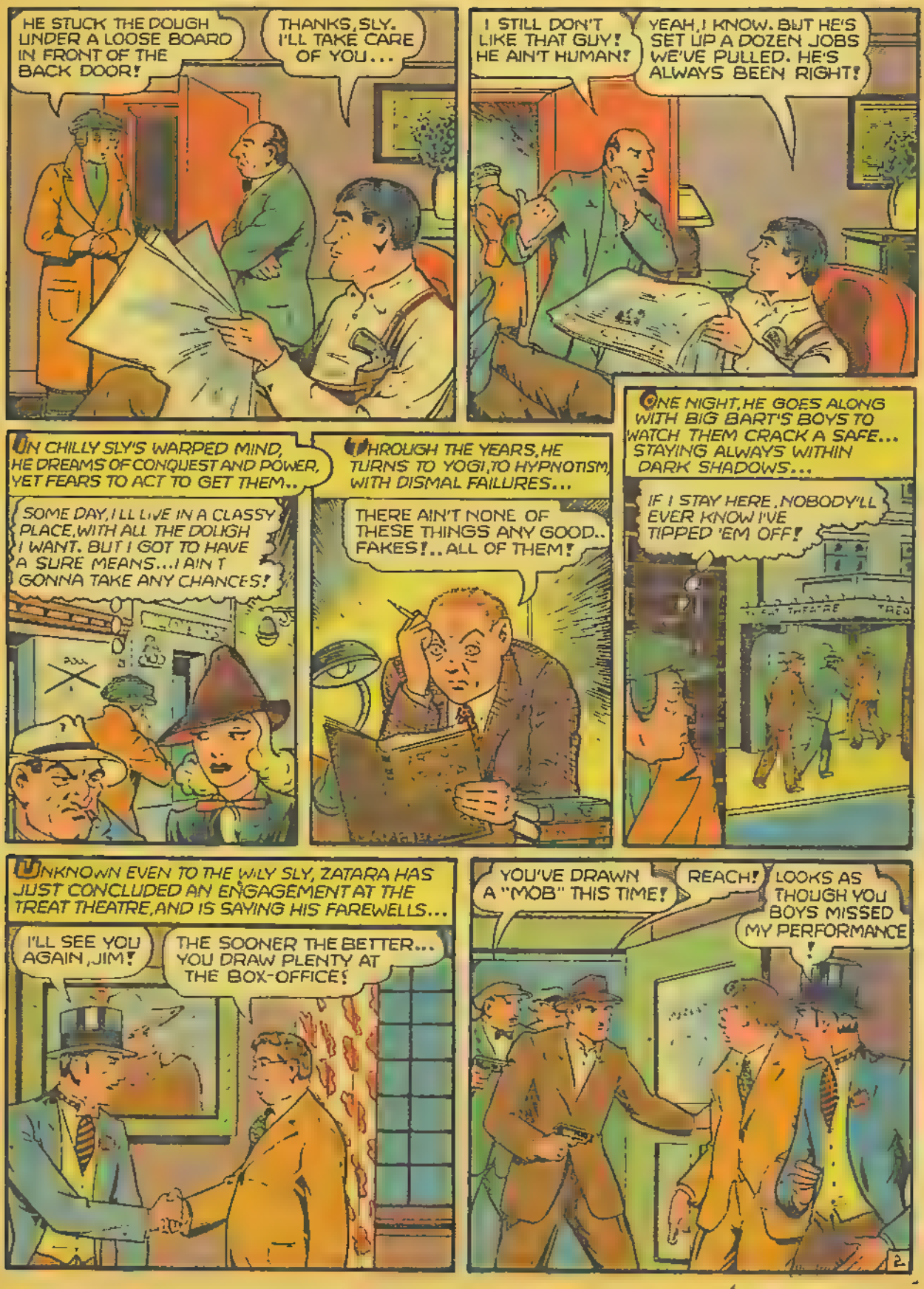
EVERY PERSON, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN HIS LIFE, HAS DAY-DREAMED OF POSSESSING MAGICAL POWERS!...BY A SNAP OF THE FINGERS, TO MAKE AN ICE CREAM CONE APPEAR! BY A SORCEROUS WORD, TO CAUSE A JOB TO BE DONE WITHOUT EFFORT! THOSE DREAMS WERE ENJOYABLE—YET THEY WERE ALWAYS DREAMS!

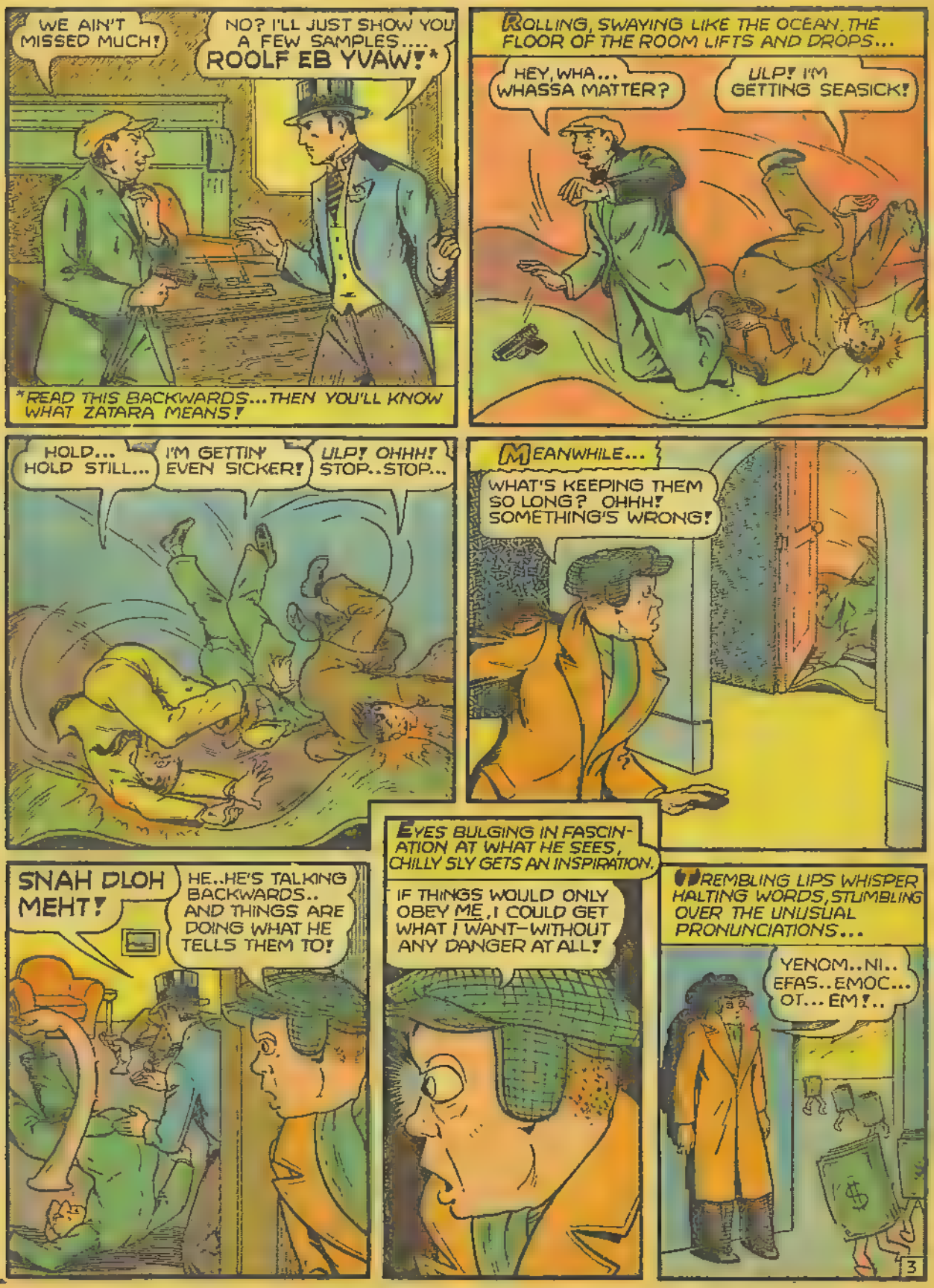
IT REMAINED FOR LITTLE "CHILLY" SLY TO MAKE THEM REALITY, FOR HE STOLE THE MAGIC SECRET OF ZATARA, THE GREATEST OF ALL MAGICIANS! WILL IT BRING HIM WEALTH AND FAME? WILL IT RENDER HIM PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE? READ....

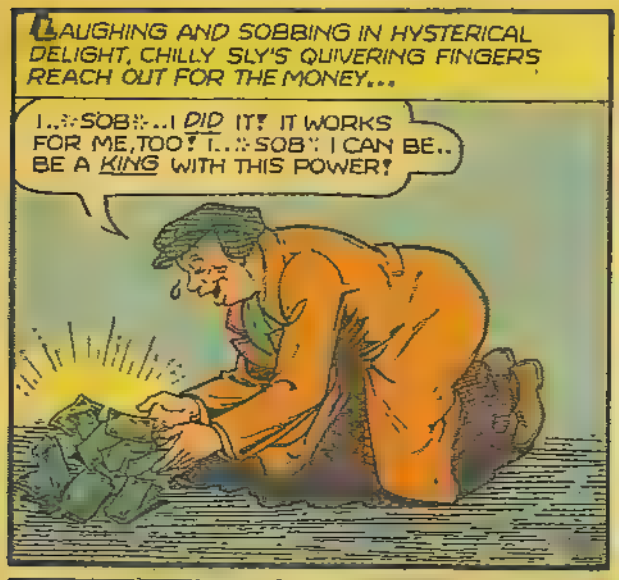
"THE MAN WHO STOLE MAGIC!"

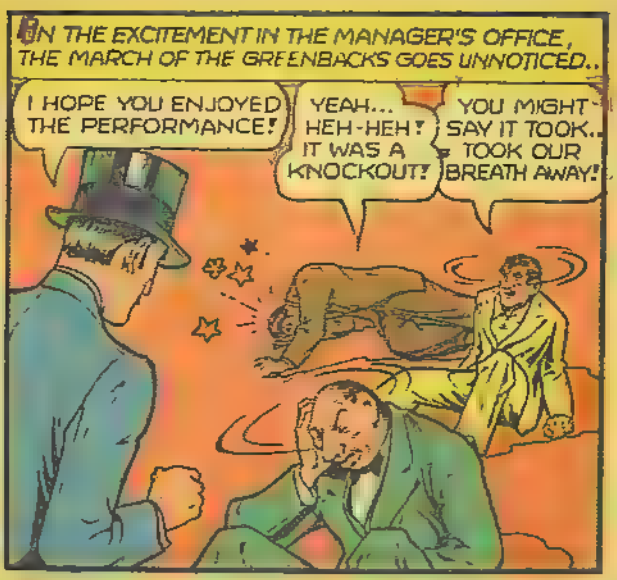

"CHILLY" SLY WAS ALWAYS THE SORT OF KID YOU NEVER TOOK A LIKING TO...
YOU'LL GET IT! I'LL TELL THE COPPER YOU'RE PLAYIN' HERE!
BEAT IT, SLY!

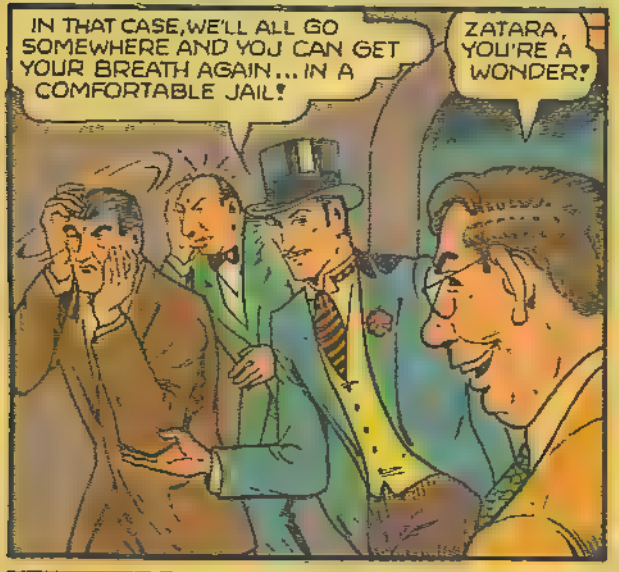

GROWN TO YOUNG MANHOOD, HE LOAFED AROUND STREET CORNERS, AND NEVER HAD ANY VISIBLE MEANS OF SUPPORT.
HE'LL HIDE IT IN A MINUTE.. AND I CAN SEE HIM FROM HERE!

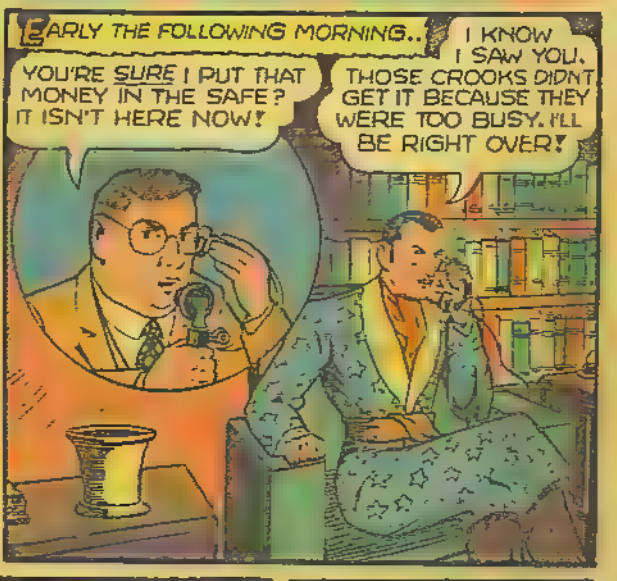

HE STUCK THE DOUGH UNDER A LOOSE BOARD IN FRONT OF THE BACK DOOR!
THANKS, SLY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU...
I STILL DON'T LIKE THAT GUY! HE AIN'T HUMAN!
YEAH, I KNOW. BUT HE'S SET UP A DOZEN JOBS WE'VE PULLED. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN RIGHT!
ONE NIGHT, HE GOES ALONG WITH BIG BART'S BOYS TO WATCH THEM CRACK A SAFE... STAYING ALWAYS WITHIN DARK SHADOWS...
IF I STAY HERE, NOBODY'LL EVER KNOW I'VE TIPPED 'EM OFF!
TREAT THEATRE
TREA
ON CHILLY SLY'S WARPED MIND, HE DREAMS OF CONQUEST AND POWER, YET FEARS TO ACT TO GET THEM..
SOME DAY, I'LL LIVE IN A CLASSY PLACE, WITH ALL THE DOUGH I WANT. BUT I GOT TO HAVE A SURE MEANS... I AIN'T GONNA TAKE ANY CHANCES!
THROUGH THE YEARS, HE TURNS TO YOGI, TO HYPNOTISM, WITH DISMAL FAILURES...
THERE AIN'T NONE OF THESE THINGS ANY GOOD.. FAKES!.. ALL OF THEM!
UNKNOWN EVEN TO THE WILY SLY, ZATARA HAS JUST CONCLUDED AN ENGAGEMENT AT THE TREAT THEATRE, AND IS SAYING HIS FAREWELLS...
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, JIM!
THE SOONER THE BETTER... YOU DRAW PLENTY AT THE BOX-OFFICE!
YOU'VE DRAWN A "MOB" THIS TIME!
REACH!
LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU BOYS MISSED MY PERFORMANCE!
2

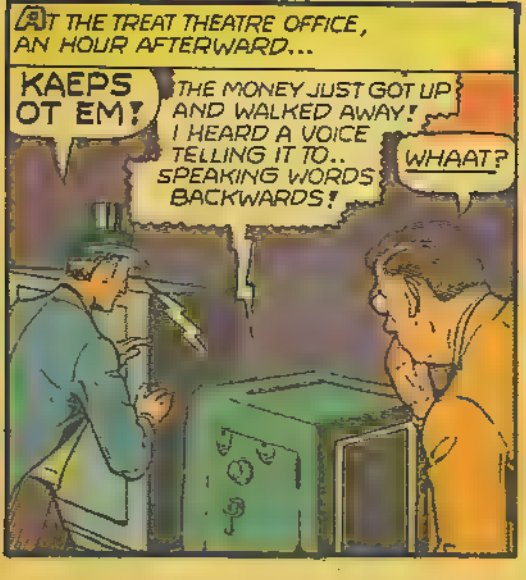

WE AIN'T MISSED MUCH?
NO? I'LL JUST SHOW YOU A FEW SAMPLES.... ROOLF EB YVAW!*
*READ THIS BACKWARDS...THEN YOU'LL KNOW WHAT ZATARA MEANS!
ROLLING, SWAYING LIKE THE OCEAN, THE FLOOR OF THE ROOM LIFTS AND DROPS...
HEY, WHA... WHASSA MATTER?
ULP! I'M GETTING SEASICK!
HOLD... HOLD STILL...
I'M GETTIN' EVEN SICKER!
ULP! OHHH! STOP..STOP..
MEANWHILE...
WHAT'S KEEPING THEM SO LONG? OHHH! SOMETHING'S WRONG!
SNAH DLOH MEHT!
HE..HE'S TALKING BACKWARDS.. AND THINGS ARE DOING WHAT HE TELLS THEM TO!
EYES BULGING IN FASCINATION AT WHAT HE SEES, CHILLY SLY GETS AN INSPIRATION.
IF THINGS WOULD ONLY OBEY ME, I COULD GET WHAT I WANT—WITHOUT ANY DANGER AT ALL!
TREMBLING LIPS WHISPER HALTING WORDS, STUMBLING OVER THE UNUSUAL PRONUNCIATIONS...
YENOM..NI.. EFAS..EMOC... OT... EM!..
3

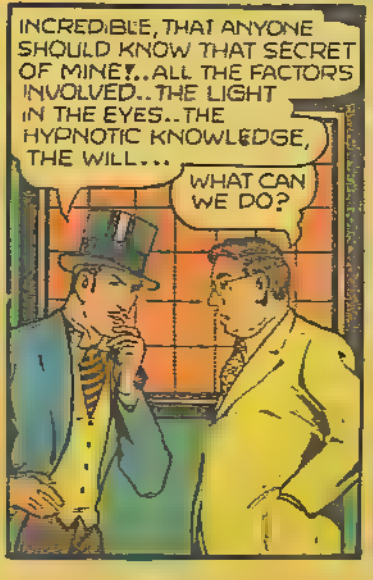

LAUGHING AND SOBBING IN HYSTERICAL DELIGHT, CHILLY SLY'S QUIVERING FINGERS REACH OUT FOR THE MONEY...
I..:SOB:..I DID IT! IT WORKS FOR ME, TOO! I..:SOB: I CAN BE.. BE A KING WITH THIS POWER!

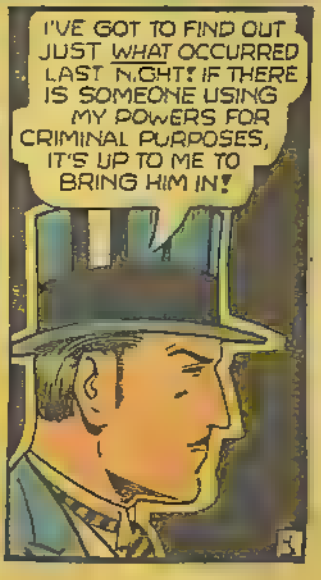

ON THE EXCITEMENT IN THE MANAGER'S OFFICE, THE MARCH OF THE GREENBACKS GOES UNNOTICED..
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE PERFORMANCE!
YEAH... HEH-HEH! IT WAS A KNOCKOUT!
YOU MIGHT SAY IT TOOK.. TOOK OUR BREATH AWAY!


IN THAT CASE, WE'LL ALL GO SOMEWHERE AND YOU CAN GET YOUR BREATH AGAIN... IN A COMFORTABLE JAIL!
ZATARA, YOU'RE A WONDER!


EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING..
YOU'RE SURE I PUT THAT MONEY IN THE SAFE? IT ISN'T HERE NOW!
I KNOW I SAW YOU. THOSE CROOKS DIDN'T GET IT BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO BUSY. I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!


AT THE TREAT THEATRE OFFICE, AN HOUR AFTERWARD...
KAEPS OT EM!
THE MONEY JUST GOT UP AND WALKED AWAY! I HEARD A VOICE TELLING IT TO.. SPEAKING WORDS BACKWARDS!
WHAAT?


INCREDIBLE, THAT ANYONE SHOULD KNOW THAT SECRET OF MINE!.. ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED.. THE LIGHT IN THE EYES.. THE HYPNOTIC KNOWLEDGE, THE WILL...
WHAT CAN WE DO?


I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT OCCURRED LAST NIGHT! IF THERE IS SOMEONE USING MY POWERS FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES, IT'S UP TO ME TO BRING HIM IN!

ON HIS LITTLE ROOM, CHILLY SLY PREPARES FOR THE FIRST OF HIS MANY FUTURE "JOBS"...
I'LL TAKE THE CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK LIKE THE YANKS TOOK CASABLANCA! ALL I GOT TO DO IS GIVE OUT WITH A FEW WORDS!
THAT NIGHT...
ROOD NEPO OT EM!
UNIO BANK INC.
WHA...WHAT'S WRONG? I ORDERED THE DOOR TO OPEN..AND THE WALL DOES!
CRASH!
UNION BANK INC.
WHO'S THERE?
HALT...OR WE SHOOT!
GO AHEAD AND SHOOT.. BUT STELLUB PORD OT ROOLF!
AS THOUGH POSSESSED BY A MISCHIEVOUS IMP, THE BULLETS DISOBEY SLY'S ORDERS, AND INSTEAD...
HEY..HEY... CUT IT OUT! QUIT FLYIN' AROUND ME!
B-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z
TAEB TI! OG YAWA!
NOT MUCH MEAT ON HIM, BUT IN THESE DAYS, YOU CAN'T CHOOSE.. WHAT RATIONING HAS DONE TO MY MEAT DIET!
HAAALP! THEY'RE EATIN' ME ALIVE! STOP 'EM..STOP 'EM!
5

RIFIED, STUNG AND BITTEN, CHILLY SLY DECIDES
LL THE WHOLE THING OFF...
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO SEND IN AN ALARM... OR LAUGH!
WELL, WE BETTER REPORT IT... JUST IN CASE!
FROM THE PRECINCT STATION, A DIRECT TELEPHONE CONNECTION WITH ZATARA'S HOTEL SUITE IS MADE...
THANK YOU, OFFICER! YES, I DID WANT TO KNOW WHEN ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED!
RIA RAEB EM PUT
NOW THAT I KNOW HE IS USING MY MAGIC FOR PROFIT, I CAN DEAL WITH HIM!
HOTEL
SNOW, TELL ME WHEN YOU FIND SOMEONE USING MY MAGIC... EB TI OS!
DISGRUNTLED, PERPLEXED, AND ANGRY, CHILLY SLY SLINKS PAST A LIGHTED STORE...
MAYBE THAT MAGIC STUFF WOULD WORK IN THERE! I GOT TO TRY IT AGAIN... I GOT TO!
EVIG EM YENOM!
YE.. YES, SIR! RIGHT AWAY, SIR!
IT WORKED! IT WORKED AGAIN!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COMIN' OVER ME.. GIMME MONEY AWAY!
I OUGHT TO HAVE A GANG AROUND ME! THEN I COULD BE A REAL GANGSTER AND GIVE OUT ORDERS!
THAT'S THE GUY THAT MADE SANDY MCTRUSH GIVE HIM MONEY! THAT OUGHT TO BE QUEER ENOUGH FOR ZATARA!
-THEN HE WENT OFF THIS WAY, COUNTING THE MONEY!
THANKS! I'LL FOLLOW HIM.. EB NEESNU!
INVISIBLE, THE MIGHTY MAGICIAN PROCEEDS WITH "CHILLY" SLY TOWARD A TAVERN IN MIDTOWN..
PERHAPS NOW I'LL SEE IF HE REALLY DOES KNOW HOW TO USE MY MAGIC!
BIG BART'LL BE SURPRISED TO LEARN WHAT I'M GOING TO TELL HIM!
HIYA, SHRIMPO! STILL BEIN' A FINGER MAN FOR BART'S MOB?
SILLY IDIOT! I'LL SHOW YOU.. EKAT LLAF!
ONCE MORE HIS MAGIC FAILS... BUT OTHER QUEER THINGS HAPPEN..!
WHA..!?!
I'LL SEE BIG BART IN HIS PRIVATE OFFICE.
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
16

THAT LITTLE FELLOW HAS STUMBLED ON MY SECRET. ALL RIGHT! BUT HE IS UNAWARE THAT HE MUST REGARD THE OBJECT HE COMMANDS.. AND THAT HE MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT LIGHT TO HYPNOTIZE IT, OR DIRECT HIS OPTIC NERVES!
— SO I WILL LET YOU WORK FOR ME, AND GIVE YOU A GOOD PORTION OF THE PROFITS!
ARE YOU KIDDIN?
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. WATCH ME... TELLAW EMOC OT ME!
ULP! YOU AIN'T KIDDIN'!
NO INDEED! SHA TRY OUR POW ON A BANK
WE SURE SHALL! CAN Y'IMAGINE THE DOUGH IN A BANK FLOATIN' OUT TO YOU LIKE MY WALLET DID? ZOWIE!
YOU SHALL SEE REMARKABLE THINGS!
I'D LIKE TO SEE THOSE "RE-MARKABLE" THINGS MYSELF!
TWENTY MINUTES LATER, A CAR PULLS INTO THE CURB BEFORE A LOCAL BANK...
KNAB NEPO!
BANK
YOU WANT TO GO IN, SO GO AHEAD!
HEY, TAKE IT EASY!
OW! THINGS AIN'T HAPPENING LIKE I PLANNED!
OWTCH!
SLY, IF YOU'RE DOIN' THIS ON PURPOSE...
OWW! I'M NOT....!
SDRAUG YLF PU!
THAT'S GETTIN' RID OF THEM!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
BUT WE'RE DOING IT!
YOWP! CAN'T YA CONTROL THEM GUYS? THEY KEEP BUMPIN' INTO US!
THINGS DON'T ALWAYS DO EXACTLY AS I SAY...!
VAULT
SAY, THIS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR AIN'T SO BAD!
YEAH, YOU CAN GET MORE LEVERAGE AND SOCK HARDER THIS WAY!
OWTCH! OWW! SAY SOME MORE MAGIC SLY... THESE GUYS DIDN'T HEAR YA THE FIRST TIME!
IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF FUN, WISE-GUY...
NO...NO..SOMETIMES THINGS DON'T ACT AS THEY SHOULD!
THEY WILL AFTER THIS... TEGROF LLA UOY WONK!
AS THOUGH A MAGIC HAND HAD WIPED HIS BRAIN FREE OF ALL RECOLLECTIONS, CHILLY SLY LOSES HIS MEMORY...
LEMME GO! YOU KNOW I NEVER GO WITH YOU ON JOBS...AND I'M IN A BANK...I'LL GET CAUGHT!
SAY, WHAT GOES ON HERE, ANYHOW?
I GO ON, BART! ANY OBJECTIONS?
OHOH! ZATARA! AND ALL THE TIME I THOUGHT IT WAS CHILLY SLY THAT WAS DOIN' THE MAGIC!
IT WAS SLY! BUT MOST OF HIS SUCCESSFUL MAGIC OCCURRED WHERE EITHER EMOTION OR BRIGHT LIGHT CAUSED HIS EYES TO OPEN WIDE! HE HAS NO POWER TO CONTROL HIS EYES AS I CAN IN THE DARK, OR IN GLOOM! BUT HE MIGHT HAVE FOUND OUT... SO I JUST LET HIM FORGET THE WHOLE THING!
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7

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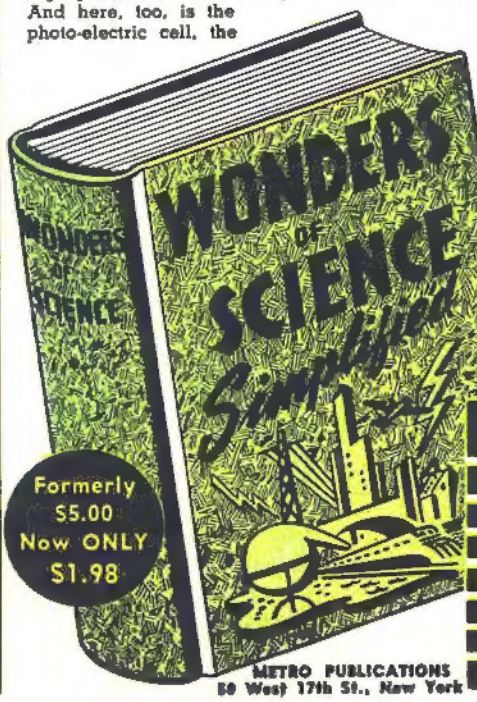

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